

Biodiversity Training Module

Project Objective:

The main goal is to build capacity in auditing biodiversity issues into the SAI community and encourage and stimulate SAIs in undertaking audits on biodiversity issues.

As mentioned in Goal 2.3 (b) of the 2008-10 WGEA work plan, the main objective of this project is to develop a training module on biodiversity (also referred as course in this document) for dissemination at planned meetings of the regional working groups on environmental auditing. Regional coordinators are encouraged to convene at least one meeting of the regional members during the 2008-2010 period.

Based mainly on the document “Auditing Biodiversity: Guidance for Supreme Audit Institutions” ([http://www.environmental-auditing.org/intosai/wgea.nsf/viewContainerPub/13929_WGEA_toward_auditing_biodiversity%20\(colour\)%20for%20WEB.pdf/\\$file/13929_WGEA_toward_auditing_biodiversity%20\(colour\)%20for%20WEB.pdf](http://www.environmental-auditing.org/intosai/wgea.nsf/viewContainerPub/13929_WGEA_toward_auditing_biodiversity%20(colour)%20for%20WEB.pdf/$file/13929_WGEA_toward_auditing_biodiversity%20(colour)%20for%20WEB.pdf)), the training module will inform on biodiversity issues and help SAI to start the designing of an audit on biodiversity. The training module goes beyond the biodiversity paper by providing exercises and case studies. In addition, the delivery of the module will allow participants to share their knowledge on auditing biodiversity.

The target audience is the SAI community. The regional WGEA coordinators are responsible for arranging the delivery of the training module (instructors and subject matter experts), likely during their regional meetings. However, when the training module will be finalized, SAIs will be encouraged to use the training module to train auditors in their office.

Project Scope:

The project consists in three phases where the role of the project leaders will evolve through each phase:

Phase 1: Project leaders develop the global training module (includes needs assessment from the regional WGEA coordinators (RWGEA)).

Phase 2: Project leaders deliver the pilot training module and update the training material following pilot.

Phase 3: Regions take ownerships: delivery in regions.

Regional WGEA coordinators and phase 3

Besides giving input into the design of the training module, regional WGEA coordinators will organize the delivery of the training module in their respective region. This will consist in finding instructors in their region which could come from the INTOSAI Development Initiative (IDI) training specialists. If instructors do not have a background in environment, the use of subject matter experts (SMEs) could be advisable. SMEs could come from the region or from external organization such as United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) since the WGEA had made in the past contacts with this organization for further partnership. SMEs could also bring a regional perspective during the delivery of the training. This could be done in relation with the goal 4 (2.4 (a)) of the 2008-10 WGEA work plan, on cooperation with external organization, which is led by the Estonian WGEA Secretariat.

The training module

The training module will be divided in three main parts following the structure of the biodiversity paper.

The first part will provide a background on biodiversity for auditors that are not familiar with this topic and it will be based mainly on the chapter 1 of the biodiversity paper:

- What biodiversity is and what the main concerns are,
- Why it is important to protect biodiversity,
- What the main threats to biodiversity are (including pressures from human activities and pressure from climate change), and
- What the means to protect biodiversity are.

The second part will present an approach in four steps to choose and design an audit on biodiversity as described in the chapter 2 of the biodiversity paper.

- **Step 1.** Identify the country's biodiversity and threats to it.
- **Step 2.** Understand the government's responses to these threats and the relevant players.
- **Step 3.** Choose audit topics and priorities.
- **Step 4.** Decide on audit approaches: audit objectives and lines of enquiry.

Finally **the third part** will present specific case studies with exercises on the following biodiversity topics described in chapter 3 of the biodiversity paper.

1. a national strategy for biodiversity,
2. protected areas (parks, conservation areas, and bird sanctuaries),
3. endangered species,
4. marine habitats and their resources,

5. forest resources,
6. mainstreaming biodiversity into economic sectors and development planning.

Other topics described in the chapter 3 (invasive species, genetic resources, wetlands and freshwater habitats and their resources) will not be specifically presented due to time constraints and because of regional priorities (see Planned methodology and participants).

The training module will be based on the IDI learning-centred methodology (adult learning). Instructors will favour techniques that draw heavily on the learner's experience.

Planned Methodology and Participants:

Sub-committee members for this project are coordinators of regional WGEAs¹. Since they are a major player in this project, they were consulted early in the project to get their views. A letter accompanied by a short questionnaire to assess their needs was sent to them in February 2008. All the regional coordinators have responded to our questionnaire. Regional WGEA coordinators were also asked to provide any new audits on biodiversity that can be used as case studies for the training module.

We compiled and analyzed all the information we received. The following are the main conclusions regarding this project. Project leaders agreed with recommendations from the RWGEA coordinators. The final output will be a 1 ½ day training module. The training will focus mainly on the second part of the paper with different case studies from the chapter 3. The six topics described in the above section (protected areas, endangered species, marine habitats, forest resources, national strategy and mainstreaming BD in economic sectors) are the ones that are the most relevant for the regions.

The module will include:

- Slides for each part of the training module.
- Guide for the instructors: important because the instructors will be different from region to region.
- Notes for the participants: coming mainly, but not only, from the 2007 Biodiversity paper.
- Exercises.
- Case studies/exercises: from different regions.

Finding a host for the delivery of the pilot course was an important element to define. In our consultation with the RWGEAs coordinators, AFROSAI-E indicated their willingness to have it delivered during their regional meeting at the beginning of October 2008. However, after consultation with sub-

¹ AFROSAI: South-Africa; ARABOSAI: Egypt; ASOSAI: China; OLACEFS: Brazil; EUROSAL: Poland (Norway); ACAG-SPASAI: New Zealand.

committee members and with SC members during the SC7 meeting in May 2008, it was decided that the pilot training module will be delivered during the 12th WGEA meeting in Qatar in January 2009 and more precisely before the meeting. Different SAIs that do not necessarily participate to RWGEA meetings would have the possibility to participate to the pilot training. We hope to reach with this pilot course participants that have little or no experience with auditing biodiversity issues.

The project leaders will deliver this pilot course. Regional instructors will be invited to the pilot course and could help in the delivery of the course; they are expected to give input before the finalisation of the material. Regional instructors will be identified with the help of RWGEA coordinators and IDI and will receive course material in advance for comments. Afterwards, project leaders will provide to the WGEA Secretariat and to the regional WGEA coordinators a final version of the training module.

IDI will help project leaders in facilitating the delivery of the pilot course and could assist the RWGEAs coordinators with the delivery of the course.

Communication:

See the above section.

Participants to the pilot course will be invited via the letter of invitation to the 12th WGEA meeting in Qatar by the WGEA Secretariat.

Regional coordinators will be contacted at key strategic steps (identification of regional instructors, comments on draft material, etc). SC members and WGEA members will be informed about the status of this project during SC and WGEA meetings.

Possible Final Output:

The final product is a training module in English with all the supporting material (instructor's notes, exercises, etc.) for its delivery. Each RWGEAs coordinator will be free to adapt the material for the delivery in their region if necessary.

Translating the module is not part of the project. OLACEFS will need to translate the course in Spanish while ARABOSAI will need to translate it in Arabic. The Biodiversity paper will soon be available in French, Spanish and in Portuguese; there is also plan to translate it in Arabic.

We will explore with the WGEA Secretariat the possibility of putting the entire training module on the future Web page on Biodiversity under the WGEA web site. This web page will be developed by the same project leaders (Brazil and Canada). However, copyright considerations will have to be discussed before taking any decisions; however, as other WGEA material, we could restrict

access to SAIs members only. There are also possibilities to have only some sections of the training module available on the web page.

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Timeline and Key Milestones:

Stage	Action	Date
1.	Consultation with regional WGEA coordinators: questionnaire sent regarding needs assessment.	Letter sent on February 12, 2008
2.	Canada (Carolle) visiting Brazil for one week to work on the training module.	Week of March 11, 2008
3.	Final Draft of Project Plan sent to Estonian Secretariat.	17 March 2008
4.	Project leaders prepare a first draft of the training module (70% completed).	March-April 2008
5.	Comments received from Steering Committee on project work plan.	April 2008
6.	7th Steering Committee meeting, Tallinn, Estonia: review and approve Project Plan. Decide where the pilot course will be held.	6-9 May 2008
7.	Final version of the Project Work Plan sent to WGEA Secretariat.	30 May 2008

8.	Following SC meeting, update and finalize the Biodiversity training module.	June to November 2008
9.	12th WGEA, Doha, Qatar Delivery the pilot of the training module before the meeting	January 2009
10.	Following pilot, update and finalize the training module and send to the WGEA Secretariat and all RWGEA coordinators.	February to March 2009
11.	Translation of the module will be the responsibility of regional coordinators. OLACEFS is planning to translate the module in Spanish and Portuguese. ARABOSAI coordinator will have to translate in Arabic.	April to June 2009
12.	Delivery of the training module in regions is under the responsibility of regional coordinators and will likely occur during regional WGEA meetings.	2009 and 2010
13.	8th Steering Committee meeting, Indonesia Progress report on the delivery of the training module.	September 2009
14.	13th WGEA meeting, China Progress report on the delivery of the training module.	June 2010
15.	INCOSAI South Africa	15-20 November 2010