

Research Projects

Agenda Item Overview

The leaders of five research projects will present the project plans. 1 hour is scheduled for the discussions of every research project in the agenda of SC10. During that time an overview about project objective and outcome, scope, and planned methodology is expected from the project leader (maximum 30 minutes); steering committee members are asked to provide their comments and suggestions. The aim of this agenda item is to amend (if needed) and to approve all project plans. We expect every SAI to provide its comments.

Additionally, brainstorming on research projects in general is planned. Under this agenda item the steering committee is asked to share their views, if we need a separate “guide” how to develop a research project in environmental auditing, similarly to the document “*Guide for Project Leaders: How to Develop a Guidance Material in Environmental Auditing*” developed in 2008-2010. This document harmonises the structure, layout and terminology to contribute to more user-friendly documents, and to assure the consistency of INTOSAI WGEA guidance materials. Is there a need for a similar document on research projects?

Background

For many areas thorough research should be done before best practice and future trends can be recognised, as well as recommendations can be given to develop an audit guideline in this area. Under “research project” we mean a relatively short study with a suggested length of 20-30 pages including:

- introducing the relevance of the topic and giving general aspects of the topic;
- giving hints to best practice governance, resources etc;
- sharing the audit related work done in the respective field;
- identifying the latest developments in the researchable area;
- proposing future activities in regard to the research topic, e.g. need for audit guideline, new research in a few years, suggestions to the WGEA community etc.

The “research project” does not give guidance nor introduce necessarily how to audit the topic. This is generally elaborated in guidance documents.

Enclosure

Project plans of the following projects:

- Land use/land management practices in environmental perspective (Morocco)
- Environmental data (Canada/USA)
- Environment and sustainability reporting (Finland)
- Environmental issues associated with infrastructure (UK)
- Wildlife conservation and tourism (Lesotho)