

SAI of Morocco

Title of the project: Research project on Land use/Land management practices in Environmental perspective

I- Project Objectives and Outcome

1. To provide comprehensive data and information to the user of the project output regarding the land use/land management practice specifically in environment perspective, the main problem or vulnerabilities related to improper or unsustainable practice in the land use/land management activities;
3. Spread, into SAIs, the interest to consider the environmental dimension in the audit of the programs and the projects connected to land use and land management;
2. To provide information to SAIs regarding Land Use/Land Management Issue(s) that can be considered and audited;
4. To provide detailed information regarding how to audit specific issues or problems (risks) related to Land Use/Land management;

II- PROJECT SCOPE

Axis I: Concepts and Definitions

- a. Definitions: Land, Land Use, Land Management and Sustainable Land Management (Best Practice Definition and specific definition by country).
- b. The main manifestations of environmental degradation. The degradation of land and its resources takes several forms:
 1. Degradation of biodiversity;
 2. Desertification;
 3. Deforestation;
 4. Soil degradation;
 5. Water degradation;
 6. The degradation of air;
 7. The degradation of heritage items;
 8. Other problems both natural and anthropogenic.
- c. Type of Land and Land Use including the ownership and the functions
- d. Certain information regarding Land Use and Land (Statistical Data-FAO or others).
- e. International Land Use Initiatives: the purpose of this section of the project consists in collecting the maximum of information on international agreements relating to land use to which WGEA member countries have acceded, the

difficulties encountered in their implementation and their place in the definition of general guidelines in the policies of land use in these countries.

Axis II: Land use management and sustainable land use management

2.1 The policies and methods of planning and land use management that have adverse effects on the environment

At the origin of various manifestations of land resources degradation, some policies and processes for planning and management of land use which have an adverse impact on the environment and sustainable development. Indeed, policies based on overexploitation of resources, uncontrolled urbanization, inappropriate farming,... can have as effect:

- The permanent deterioration or weakening of the ability of land to provide economic and environmental benefits;
- The inefficient use of resources;
- Lack of awareness of urban environmental phenomena;
- Cumulative effects: In addition to having adverse effects on local and national levels, poor land management leading to international problems worsen as the population of the planet increases.

The purpose of this section is to identify and highlight the different policies and approach to planning and management with an adverse impact on land resources in the context of each country member of the WGEA.

2.2 The policies and modes of planning and land use management which have or may have positive effects on the environment

From then on, that the protection of the land has become a major issue, consistent answers are thus required to counteract this degradation. A sustainable use and management land represents now one of the pillars of sustainable development and environmental protection.

This growing awareness has led many countries to develop and implement policies, laws or technical standards in order to reduce the negative impacts of human activity on the various components of land. It is globally about following policies:

1. Conservation policies;
2. Policies of restoration or rehabilitation;
3. Protection policies;
4. Prevention policies;
5. Mitigation policies.

The objective is, thus, to see, in the context of each country member of the WGEA, the importance of awareness of different actors to management methods and planning tools to preserve land resources and to what extent State policies can be a lever in this direction.

Axis III: Auditing Land Use/Land Management Issue(s)

As part of the exchange of experience in auditing and in order to help SAIs to learn from best practices enshrined in this area, this section will be reserved to the presentation of different experiences in auditing land use and land management.

After collecting the information above and getting the specific problem(s) or Risk(s), the chapter III will describe the auditing with the following outline:

- a) Risk/problem # 1
 - Description of the Risk/problem #1
 - Why this specific Risk/problem occurred.
 - What is the impact of this specific risk/problem.
 - What criteria or measurement that can prevent Risk/problem #1 from occurring.
 - Is there any measurement or specific criteria or international agreement related to this specific risk/problem?
 - Compliance/performance Audit related to this specific risk/problem.
- b) Risk/problem # 2
 - Description of the Risk/problem #2
 - Why this specific Risk/problem occurred.
 - What is the impact of this specific risk/problem
 - What criteria or measurement that can prevent Risk/problem #2 from occurring
 - Is there any measurement or specific criteria or international agreement related to this specific risk/problem?
 - Compliance/performance Audit related to this specific risk/problem
- c) Risk/problem # 3
 - Description of the Risk/problem #3
 - Why this specific Risk/problem occurred.
 - What is the impact of this specific risk/problem
 - What criteria or measurement that can prevent Risk/problem #3 from occurring
 - Is there any measurement or specific criteria or international agreement related to this specific risk/problem.
 - Compliance/performance Audit related to this specific risk/problem.

As part of the exchange of experience in auditing and in order to help SAIs to learn from best practices enshrined in this area, this section will present different experiences in auditing land use and land management.

III- Planned Methodology

The approach to be followed to complete this research project will be based on:

- Guides and manuals published by INTOSAI;
- Performance Audits conducted by member countries of the project;
- Data collected by survey to the WGEA members;
- Resources available on the websites of specialized organizations;

- Information exchange, by e-mail, with the members of the subgroup;
- Workshops and work sessions programmed during the meetings of the WGEA;
- The project will focus on just three or four problems or vulnerabilities. These problems or vulnerabilities can be collected from the respective Sub-Committee Member countries' experiences and/or SAIs' audit reports.

IV- Contacts

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