

# **2008–11 Work Plan**

**EUROSAI - Working Group on  
Environmental Auditing**

## **The EUROSAI WGEA Work Plan**

This work plan sets out the vision, mandate, goals and proposed activities of the European Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions' Working Group on Environmental Auditing (EUROSAI WGEA) for the period 2008 to 2011. In order to achieve continuity in the activities of EUROSAI WGEA, the work plan period has been extended to three years starting in 2008. This is also consistent with the work plan period of the International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions Working Group on Environmental Auditing (INTOSAI WGEA). The WGEA work plan for 2008 was approved at the EUROSAI WGEA members meeting in Bratislava/Senec in Slovakia in October 2007, and it is incorporated in this document. The goals and activities are intended to respond to the range of needs of supreme audit institutions (SAIs). The work plan will be revised annually.

The work plan has been developed by the EUROSAI WGEA Chair and Secretariat (the Office of the Auditor General of Poland and, from June 2008, the Office of the Auditor General of Norway), and it was approved at the EUROSAI WGEA members meeting in Kyiv, Ukraine in October 2008. The work plan is designed to help EUROSAI WGEA realise its vision and fulfil its mandate.

### **Long-term Vision**

EUROSAI WGEA has adopted the vision of INTOSAI WGEA. EUROSAI WGEA and its members share a commitment to use the power of public sector audits to leave a positive legacy for future generations by improving the management of natural resources and the environment, and the health and prosperity of the people of Europe.

EUROSAI WGEA's vision is to improve the management of natural resources and the environment in each country represented in the working group, and to make Europe a leading region in the area of good natural resources and environmental management in the public sector. Through its activities, EUROSAI WGEA aims to promote a spirit of cooperation based on integrity, open communication and professional excellence.

### **EUROSAI WGEA's Thematic Focus for the Work Plan Period**

At the EUROSAI WGEA meeting in Luxembourg in 2006, it was agreed that the WGEA should focus on the development of methodology in connection with a thematic focus area. Climate change is the thematic focus area for the current period.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Fourth Assessment Report, it is now evident that the increase in global average air and ocean temperatures is unequivocal and will cause negative impacts to human beings, species and ecosystems. The climate changes contribute to the melting of snow and ice, rising global sea levels, more extreme and unstable weather conditions (storms and flooding), and decreasing water resources. It is very likely that the climate changes are mainly caused by human behaviour. In this context, climate change auditing is becoming increasingly important.

At the INTOSAI WGEA meeting in Arusha, Tanzania in June 2007, it was decided to develop guidelines for climate change auditing and to conduct an international climate change

audit. EUROSAI WGEA, under the leadership of the Supreme Chamber of Control of the Republic of Poland, has initiated a European audit in this field. EUROSAI WGEA believes the two working groups will benefit from choosing the same theme.

## **EUROSAI WGEA's Strategic Goals for the Work Plan Period**

In order to achieve its vision, EUROSAI WGEA will encourage European SAIs to work towards the following five strategic goals:

1. Encourage concurrent or coordinated environmental audits by SAIs in Europe
2. Encourage the SAIs in Europe to initiate and implement audits within the area of climate change
3. Develop methodology in the area of environmental auditing, and build the capacity of SAIs in terms of new methodology for environmental auditing
4. Identify and develop governance practices and organisational structures to ensure the ongoing and effective functioning of EUROSAI WGEA
5. Establish coordinated and effective processes in the area of environmental auditing between EUROSAI's working groups, INTOSAI's working groups and other relevant organisations and institutions

## **The EUROSAI WGEA Organisation**

EUROSAI WGEA is led by a Chair who is supported by a steering committee (SC). The steering committee consists of up to 10 SAIs. INTOSAI WGEA is proposed to be an observer in the SC.

The main activities in the plan require a SAI in the working group to act as overall project leader. Project leaders are responsible for a given project, including preparing individual work plans and progress reports, organising meetings and consultations, authorising drafts and communicating with the steering committee and EUROSAI WGEA.

Each project leader is in turn supported by a sub-committee. Sub-committee members are expected to review and comment on key documents related to the project (largely by e-mail) and they may also undertake specific tasks (such as research or writing) as agreed with the project leader.

In all cases, the EUROSAI WGEA Chair will establish management processes and schedules to guide the development of projects. The Chair oversees all projects in EUROSAI WGEA.

An advisory group, consisting of both external and internal subject matter experts, will support the EUROSAI WGEA secretariat. The composition of the group will vary depending on the needs and activities being conducted.

Details about the organisational structure are further outlined in the memo "Proposal for a new organisational model for the EUROSAT Working Group on Environmental Auditing (EUROSAT WGEA)". This memo is attached as appendix 2 of the work plan.

**2008–11 Strategic Goals and Activities**

**Goal 1: Encourage Concurrent or Coordinated Audits**

*Goal*

The goal is to encourage European SAIs to initiate and implement concurrent or coordinated environmental audits.

*Rationale*

Environmental challenges are transnational. Cooperation among SAIs in the area of environmental auditing is therefore crucial in order to achieve both national and joint European goals. Many SAIs in Europe have gained considerable experience through concurrent and coordinated audits - in the planning, examination and reporting phases of the audit cycle. Such audits are powerful tools for the development of environmental auditing. Experiences and the lessons learned from these audits have been included in the INTOSAI 2007 paper, Cooperation Between SAIs: Tips and Examples for Cooperative Audits, which was jointly prepared by the SAIs of the Netherlands and Poland.

In addition to a number of national environmental audits, several concurrent or coordinated environmental audits are planned in the work plan period. The participating SAIs will define the specific cooperation model and the detailed audit scope and project elements within the different projects.

Amongst the cooperative and concurrent environmental audits being carried out by the EUROSAT WGEA members are:

<b>Audit</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Participants</b>
Carry out a European audit on the topic of climate change. see also Goal 3, activity 1	Within the 2008 –2011 work plan period	Project Leader: SAI of Poland Participating SAIs: Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, FYROM (Israel), ( ), , , the Russian Federation, Switzerland, ( ) and the Ukraine

Coordinated audit of state financial means allocated for air and ozone layer protection and implementation of related international agreements – climate change/emission trading	2008	Project Leader: SAI of The Slovak Republic Participating SAIs: Austria, the Czech Republic, and the Republic of Slovenia
Audit of Management of public financial resources and state assets with regard to biodiversity and ecosystem protection in NATURA 2000	2009	Project Leader: France Participating SAIs: Austria, Finland and Hungary
Fisheries management and monitoring of the environmental impact on fish resources in the Baltic Sea	2008	Project Leader: SAI of Denmark Participating SAIs: Estonia, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, the Russian Federation and Sweden
Parallel Audit on the implementation of the provisions of the Bucharest Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution	2008-2009	SAIs of Bulgaria and the Ukraine
INTERREG III Community Initiative programmes focusing on environmental and nature protection measures	2008	Project Leader: SAI of Hungary. Participating SAIs: The Ukraine
Emission inspections for vehicles: impact (reduction of air pollution), cost-utility	2008	Switzerland and other interested countries
Follow up of the investigation of the management and control of the fisheries in the Barents Sea and the Norwegian Sea	2008-2011	Norway and the Russian Federation (parallel audit)
Parallel audit of efficiency of use of the public funds allocated for maintenance of nuclear safety of the population and protection of the environment from nuclear pollution	2008-2011	Norway and the Russian Federation (parallel audit)

The role of EUROSAI WGEA is to support these audits when needs arise, and to be a proactive facilitator that can initiate timely concurrent or cooperative audits.

### *Proposed Activities*

Contribute to the utilization of the INTOSAI 2007 paper, Cooperation Between SAIs: Tips and Examples for Cooperative Audits	2008-2011	Project Leader: The EUROSAI WGEA members Participating SAIs: /to be filled in/
Facilitate and support concurrent or cooperative audits when requested	2009-2011	Project Leader: The SAI leading the audit

## Goal 2: European Audits of Climate Change

### *Goal*

The goal is to encourage European SAIs to initiate and implement audits in the area of climate change, including the impact on the environment and society.

### *Rationale*

In the Climate Change 2007 Synthesis Report, policymakers from all over the world agreed on the following:

- The world will face major climate changes during the next 100 years
- We must adapt to the changes and implement measures in order to mitigate the damage and reduce emissions
- To avoid the most serious climate changes, the growth of climate-related emissions must be reversed before 2015
- It is possible to accomplish great emission reductions

In 1992, 189 countries joined the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). The Convention's goal is to stabilise greenhouse gas concentrations 'at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic (human-induced) interference with the climate system'. According to the Convention, the industrialised countries must stabilise their greenhouse gas concentrations, and 1990 has been set as the base year for tabulating emissions. The countries that ratify the treaty agree to take climate change into account in several sectors and to develop national programmes to slow climate change.

The Kyoto Protocol requires developed countries to reduce their emissions below specific levels described in the treaty between 2008 and 2012. The obligations are mainly reserved for the developed countries. The protocol introduced three market-based mechanisms to give the developed countries trading instruments to meet their emission targets:

1. Emission trading
2. Joint Implementation
3. Clean Development Mechanism (CDM)

A new international framework is needed to replace the Kyoto Protocol in 2012, planned as a final agreement in Copenhagen in 2009. In order to accomplish the goal of not exceeding a temperature rise of two degrees Celsius, more drastic action than agreed upon in Kyoto is needed. The European Community has also developed important policies and legislative procedures in the environmental area. SAIs are in a position to contribute to policy development and the effective implementation of policy through the proposed activities. Therefore climate change has been chosen as the main thematic focus area for the work plan period.

### *Proposed Activities*

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Carry out a European audit on the topic of climate change, see Goal 1, activity 1	Within the 2008–2011 work plan period	Project Leader: Supreme Chamber of Control of the Republic of Poland Participating SAIs: /to be filled in/
Contribute to the utilization of the INTOSAI guidelines on auditing governmental management of climate change in Europe, including the development of an e-learning module	2008-2011	Project Leader: The EUROSAI WGEA members Participating SAIs: /to be filled in/
Propose, plan and facilitate a European audit on climate change adaptation	2009-2011	Project Leader: /to be filled in/
Contribute to the utilization of the INTOSAI guidelines on auditing sustainable energy in Europe	2010-2011	Project Leader: The EUROSAI WGEA members Participating SAIs: /To be filled in/

## **Goal 3: Methodology Development and Capacity Building**

### *Goal*

Develop methodology in the area of environmental auditing and build the capacity of SAIs in terms of new methodology for environmental auditing.

### *Rationale*

Building the capacity of SAIs to conduct environmental audits, through various learning channels and the exchange of information, is a core activity of the EUROSAI WGEA. WGEA meetings are a key means for SAIs to exchange information, build capacity and network with other SAIs and with external organisations. At least one training seminar will be held annually.

## *Proposed Activities*

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Organise the VI environmental seminar of EUROSAI WGEA 2008	October 2008, Kyiv Ukraine	Project Leader: The Chair in cooperation with the host nation, SAI of Ukraine
Organise the VII environmental seminar of EUROSAI WGEA in 2009	Autumn 2009	Project leader: The Chair in cooperation with the SAI of Bulgaria
Organise the 7th environmental seminar of EUROSAI WGEA in 2010	Autumn 2010	Project leader: The Chair in cooperation with the SAI of The Netherlands
Organise the 8th environmental seminar of EUROSAI WGEA in 2011	Autumn 2011	Project leader: The Chair in cooperation with the SAI of Sweden
Develop guidance material on the reporting of parallel audits	2008-2011	Project Leader: The Chair /to be decided/
Seminar on biodiversity auditing based on INTOSAI's training/exchange module adapted to a European context	Autumn 2009	Project Leader: The Chair
Seminar on climate change auditing	2010	Project leader: The Chair
Compile a list of experts to use in auditing projects	2009-2011	Project Leader: The Chair
Adapt and utilize INTOSAI WGEA guidance's in a European context	2008-2011	The EUROSAI WGEA members
Systematic mapping of lessons learned in conducting environmental audits and using these in the planning and implementation of new and ongoing projects	2008-2011	The EUROSAI WGEA members

## **Goal 4: Administrative and Effective Governance of the EUROSAI WGEA**

### *Goal*

Identify and put governance practices and organisational structures in place to ensure the ongoing and effective functioning of EUROSAI WGEA.

### *Rationale*

The EUROSAI WGEA has existed since 1999; during that time, it has achieved considerable success and undergone many changes. In the spirit of continuous improvement, WGEA will establish a steering committee to further the achievement of our vision and goals and to ensure the effective future functioning of the WGEA.

### *Proposed Activities*

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Implement a new organisational structure for EUROSAT WGEA	2008	Project Leader: Chair
Organise for at least two SC meetings per year	2009-11	Project Leader: Chair

### **Goal 5: To establish coordinated and effective processes in the area of environmental auditing**

#### *Goal*

The goal is to establish coordinated and effective processes in the area of environmental auditing between EUROSAT's working groups, INTOSAT's working groups and other relevant organisations and institutions.

#### *Rationale*

The EUROSAT WGEA will work on a number of challenges relating to the management of natural resources and the environment. Due to the nature of environmental challenges, it is imperative to coordinate with EUROSAT and INTOSAT working groups as well as with other relevant organisations and institutions. In order to fulfil the vision of EUROSAT WGEA, a consolidated and coordinated effort is required at several levels which include other key actors. EUROSAT WGEA recognises the need to draw on the strengths and expertise of external resource institutions and organisations, and it will endeavour to further develop relations with them and act as a facilitator.

A collective effort is needed by the international community in order to mitigate and resolve the consequences of man-caused disasters and achieve radioactive waste elimination. The EUROSAT Task Force on the Audit of Funds Allocated to Disasters and Catastrophes will develop its own work plan by the end of 2008, as well as the audit work in this area. EUROSAT WGEA will work on other challenges in the area of environmental policy, but will establish coordinated and effective working relationships with the Task Force, as there are overlapping issues and common challenges.

#### *Proposed activities:*

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Timing</b>	<b>Responsibility</b>
Develop and update a new web page for EUROSAT WGEA	2008-2011	Project Leader: The Chair
Dissemination of the Working Group's activities in the European SATs' respective publications	2008-2011	The EUROSAT WGEA's members
Ongoing publication of the results of environmental audits in mass media	2008-2011	The EUROSAT WGEA's members
Invite the Ukraine, as the chair of the EUROSAT Task Force on the Audit of	2008	Project Leader: The Chair

Funds Allocated to Disasters and Catastrophes, to be in the steering committee of EUROSAI WGEA		
Explore the possibilities to include EUROSAI WGEA as observer in the EUROSAI Task Force on the Audit of Funds Allocated to Disasters and Catastrophes	2008	Project Leader: The Chairs of the working groups
Exchange of work plans, audit plans, methodology and findings between the EUROSAI Task Force on the Audit of Funds Allocated to Disasters and Catastrophes and EUROSAI WGEA	2008-11	Project Leader: The Chairs of the working groups
Exchange of work plans, audit plans, methodology and findings between EUROSAI WGEA and the INTOSAI working groups on environmental auditing	2008-11	Project Leader: The Chairs of the working groups
Exchange information and facilitate communication and learning between EUROSAI WGEA and relevant organisations and institutions in Europe	2008-11	Project Leader: The Chair

## *Appendix I to work plan: EUROSAT WGEA membership (as of October 2009)*

**Chair and Secretariat:** The Office of the Auditor General of Norway

### **Steering Committee:**

*Permanent members:* The Chair of EUROSAT WGEA (The Office of the Auditor General of Norway)

European Court of Auditors

The Accounts Chamber of the Russian Federation

The Accounting Chamber of Ukraine

The Netherlands Court of Audit

*Non-permanent members:* The Supreme Chamber of Control of Poland

The Office of the Auditor General of Sweden

The Court of Audit of Slovenia

*Observer:* INTOSAT WGEA

### **Working Group Members:**

Albania	State Supreme Audit
Andorra	Court of Audit
Armenia	Control Chamber of the Republic of Armenia
Austria	Austrian Court of Audit
Azerbaijan	Accounts Chamber of The Republic of Azerbaijan Government House
Belarus	State Control Committee
Belgium	Court of Audit
Bulgaria	National Audit Office
Croatia	State Audit Office
Cyprus	Audit Office of The Republic
Czech Republic	Supreme Audit Office
Denmark	National Audit Office
Estonia	National Audit Office of Estonia
ECA	European Court of Auditors
Finland	National Audit Office
France	Court of Audit
Georgia	Chamber of Control of Georgia
Germany	Supreme Audit Institution
Greece	Court of Audit
Hungary	State Audit Office
Ireland	Office of the Comptroller and Auditor General
Israel	Office of the State Comptroller and Ombudsman
Italy	Court of Audit
Kazakhstan	The Accounts Committee
Latvia	State Audit Office
Lithuania	State Control of The Republic of Lithuania
Luxembourg	Court of Audit
Malta	National Audit Office
Moldova	Court of Accounts
The Netherlands	The Netherlands Court of Audit
Norway	Office of the Auditor General
Poland	Supreme Chamber of Control

Portugal	Court of Audit
Romania	Court of Accounts
Russian Federation	Accounts Chamber of The Russian Federation
Slovak Republic	Supreme Audit Office of the Slovak Republic
Slovenia	Court of Audit
Spain	The Spanish Court of Audit
Sweden	Swedish National Audit Office
Switzerland	Swiss Federal Audit Office
The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia	State Audit Office
Turkey	Turkish Court of Accounts
Ukraine	Accounting Chamber of Ukraine
United Kingdom	National Audit Office

## ***Appendix II to work plan: Proposal for a new organisational model for the EUROSAT Working Group on Environmental Auditing (EUROSAT WGEA)***

### **1. Background**

The EUROSAT Working Group on Environmental Auditing was established in 1999, and by the time of the 7<sup>th</sup> EUROSAT Congress in Krakow in June 2008, it consisted of 39 members. EUROSAT WGEA's vision is to improve the management of natural resources and the environment in each country represented in the working group, and to make Europe a leading region in the area of good natural resources and environmental management in the public sector.

The organisational structure of the Working Group should contribute to the promoting and enhancement of involvement and efficiency within the Working Group. The Working Group has been chaired by a coordinator, who was assisted by six regional sub-coordinators. As concluded at the Working Group's 5th annual meeting in Bratislava/Senec in 2007, this organisational model, and especially the sub-coordinator arrangement, did not function satisfactorily. At the Working Group meeting in Bratislava/Senec, it was therefore agreed that the Office of the Auditor General of Norway, as coming Chair of EUROSAT WGEA, should present a proposal for a more efficient and suitable organisational model. At the 7<sup>th</sup> EUROSAT Congress in Krakow, a resolution was adopted that authorised the new Chair to propose any changes in the Group's structure which the Group's members find appropriate.

At this Congress it was also decided to establish a Task Force on the Audit of Funds Allocated to Disasters and Catastrophes. This Task Force should work in coordination with EUROSAT WGEA.

### **2. Establishment of a steering committee**

The Chair proposes to replace the sub-coordinator arrangement and establish a steering committee to support the Chair in chairing the group.

#### ***Role and responsibility of the steering committee***

The steering committee shall provide operational support and strategic direction to the work of EUROSAT WGEA. When making decisions, the coordinator and the steering committee shall seek to reach a consensus.

The responsibilities of the steering committee should be to

- provide advice and make recommendations on the development of work plans
- follow up and monitor the planned activities and tasks as stated in the work plan
- provide strategic advice to the Chair between the annual Working Group meetings
- carry out reviews and provide advice on project-specific plans, progress reports and project drafts
- provide advice to the Chair on the programme and location of annual meetings
- improve communication within the Working Group.

The steering committee's members are expected to attend and contribute at all steering committee meetings, and to respond to requests for information between meetings.

### *The composition of the steering committee*

Taking into account the need for both continuity and dynamics within the steering committee, the Chair believes it should consist of both permanent and non-permanent members. In order to ensure efficiency in its work, we propose to limit the size of the steering committee to no more than 10 members including observers. Observers are included in order to maintain good links with other relevant organisations. The Chair proposes to include the SAI that chairs the INTOSAI Working Group on Environmental Auditing as an observer.

The Chair proposes that the permanent members of the steering committee should meet one or more of the following criteria:

- The members represent a variety of methodological approaches to environmental auditing
- The members represent a large variety of countries or areas

The SAI acting as Chair of the EUROSAI WGEA will participate as a permanent member of the steering committee.

It is desirable that the steering committee is not dominated by SAIs from one geographical region in Europe.

The Chair will propose steering committee members. These will then be approved by the members at an EUROSAI WGEA meeting. The non-permanent members will be elected for periods of three years following the Work Plan periods, and they should be elected from among those countries that are responsible for major projects in the Work Plan period. The work and composition of the steering committee (the permanent as well as non-permanent members) will be assessed at the beginning of each Work Plan period.