

THE 6TH SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL AUDITING AND 5TH WORKING GROUP MEETING OF ASOSAI WGEA



Country Paper: Australia

Theme: Promoting Sustainable Development



17-19 October 2016

Jaipur, India

Background information

The Australian National Audit Office's audit mandate does not extend to the promotion of government policy or the promotion of internationally accepted environmental and development practice (such as sustainable development and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals).

The Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has the lead responsibility for responding to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Further information is available at: <http://dfat.gov.au/aid/topics/development-issues/global-development-agenda/Pages/global-development-agenda.aspx>

The potential for auditing against the SDGs was considered at the 2016 ACAG/PASAI Regional Working Group on Environmental Auditing meeting in May 2016.¹ ACAG and PASAI members at the meeting indicated their willingness to take part in further cooperative performance audits on environmental topics, including the environmentally focused SDGs. However, the meeting noted that it was too early to propose environmental audits or a cooperative audit of SDGs as governments needed to decide which SDGs would be implemented first and establish frameworks and approaches to their implementation and reporting. For further information, see the Communique from the meeting available at: <http://environmental-auditing.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=KsQ91ody6BE%3d&tabid=111&mid=545>.

¹ ACAG—Australasian Council of Auditors-General. PASAI—Pacific Association of Supreme Audit Institutions.