Evidence Collection Techniques and Analysis

Day One

Participant introductions and course objectives

Course objectives and schedule

Introductions

Expectations, including evidence challenges faced

Basic Concepts Relating to Audit Evidence

The CAAF Key Principles framework

Standards that govern evidence collection and analysis

Sufficiency and appropriateness of evidence

How evidence fits into the performance audit process

Cognitive Bias

The potential for cognitive biases

Types of cognitive bias

How biases can impact a performance audit

Strategies for mitigating biases

Toolkit – Knowledge of Evidence Collection Techniques

Testimonial evidence

Physical evidence

Documentary evidence

Individual Exercise- Improving use of evidence gathering techniques

Toolkit – Knowledge of Analytical Techniques

Sampling

Population analysis- Big Data

Case Studies

Surveys

Benchmarking

Cost-benefit and Cost-effectiveness Analysis

Statistical and quantitative analysis

Qualitative Data Analysis - Content Analysis

Assessing reliability of database

Individual Exercise- Improving use of analytical techniques

Day Two

Previous day feedback

Evidence Collection Strategy

Purpose and principles of Evidence Collection Strategy

Group Exercise – Road Maintenance Evidence Collection Strategy

Professional Judgments – Sufficiency and Appropriateness

The nature of critical thinking and professional judgment

Key questions to determine sufficiency and appropriateness of audit evidence

Evidence interpretation challenges

Knowing when to stop gathering evidence

Exercise – Cash Register

Preparing Reports that Align with Evidence

Common pitfalls, traps and challenges

Tables and graphs

Application in audit reports

Wrap-up

Improving use of evidence gathering and analytical techniques