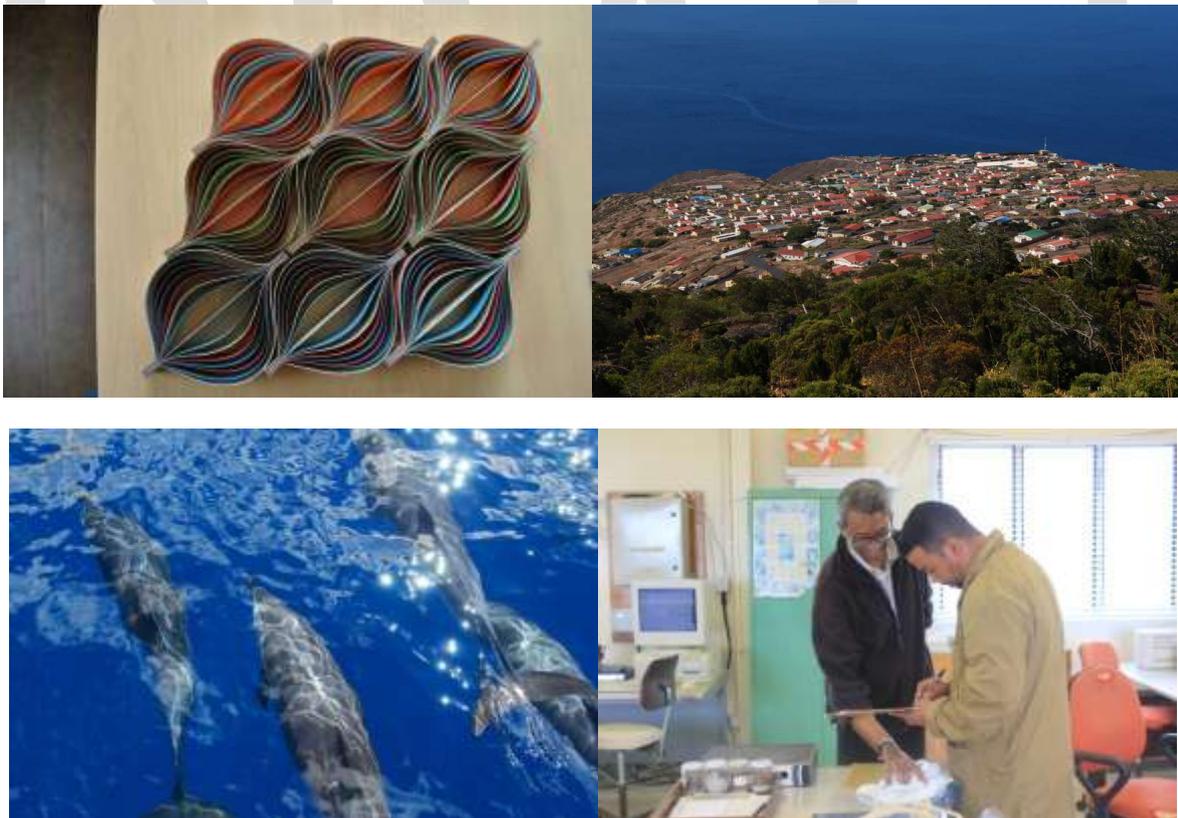




St. Helena

Draft National Environmental Management Plan

2012 - 2022



NOTE: THIS IS A DRAFT DOCUMENT ONLY – IT HAS BEEN PREPARED FOR PUBLIC CONSULTATION. ALL PUBLIC CONSULTATION RESPONSES SHOULD BE SUBMITTED TO TARA PELEMBE, DIRECTOR ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE ESSEX HOUSE BY 13TH AUGUST 2012. EMAIL director@environmentalmanagement.gov.sh

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Citation: St. Helena National Environmental Management Plan 2012-2017.

FOREWORD



I am extremely pleased that St. Helena has developed its first National Environmental Management Plan.

For Saints, looking after the environment is no new thing. We grew up fishing, farming, fetching animal food, sometimes fetching water, basically living very closely with the natural environment. We know that the environment is important for our lives, our livelihoods and our well-being.

As the airport project progresses and the island develops its economy, we will need to ensure that the environment, one of St. Helena's key tourism products, is effectively managed.

As chairman of the Natural Resources, Development and Environment Committee, Environmental Management falls under the portfolio of my Committee. I am very keen that we are successful in taking forward this new focus area, which is now one of 3 of our National Goals under St. Helena's new Sustainable Development Plan.

The environment impacts us all, and this plan is not, and cannot be, just a St. Helena Government Plan, it is a plan for the whole island. Having branded our island as 'green', we all need to take environmental management seriously. This is something that we all need to do in partnership and collaboration - between government, businesses, youth, civil society, residents and visitors. We need to mainstream environment.

I am looking forward to working with all of you on effectively managing St. Helena's wonderful environment.

Honourable Councillor Raymond Williams – Chair of Natural Resources Development and Environment Committee



It is pleasing to see that St Helena has developed its first National Environmental Management Plan and, as Miss St Helena 2012, I feel privileged to represent the youth and provide a foreword from a young person's perspective.

St Helena is such an inimitable island with a rich biodiversity. Our environment is one of the most significant facets of the island that appeals to tourists, and with the current economic development of the island we need to ensure that the appropriate measures are taken to ensure our environment is protected and managed efficiently.

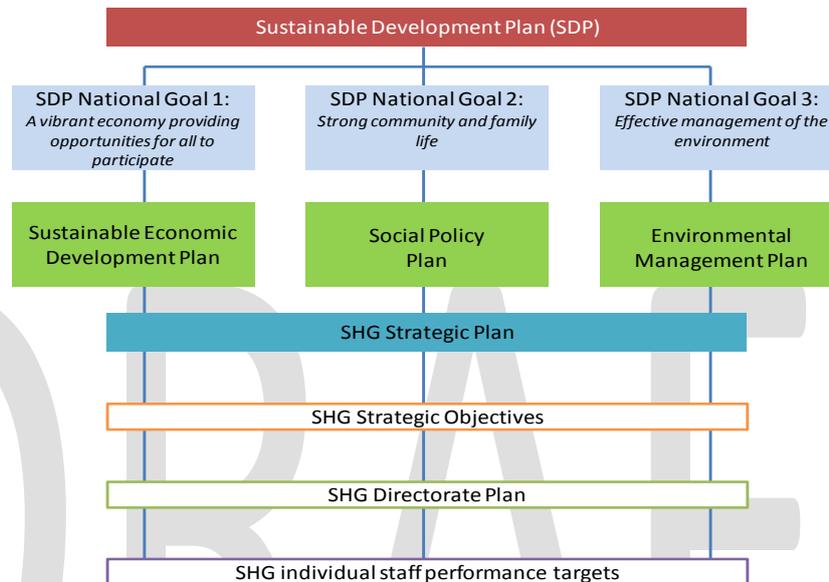
Many of us associate the environment with wirebirds and the endemic plants however we need to realise that the environment in a broader context is everything around us: the sea, the air we breathe, all vegetation, and all of it needs to be protected from pollution and degradation.

The environment is part of the island and we all are responsible for sustaining and protecting it. This plan aims to inform every one of the dangers our environment faces and how we can work collectively in order to minimise any impact.

Leoni Ellick Miss St Helena 2012

1. INTRODUCTION, BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

St. Helena has a rich natural and cultural environment and Saints are at the heart of this environment. In recognition of the value of the natural environment to St. Helena and its people, effective management of the environment is one of St. Helena's 3 national goals outlined in the Sustainable Development Plan (SDP). The SDP requires the production of this Environmental Management Plan to implement its environmental goal.



The very nature of life on St. Helena means that we are all closely in touch with the natural environment. We might walk up the road to catch the bus to work, take care of the garden around our house, drive a 4x4 off road, play football or rounders on Francis Plain, go for walks in the National Conservation Areas, catch fish, dive or swim in the sea, boat trips to Lemon valley... the list is endless. But a lot of what we do, is done outside, in the natural environment. Our life indoors too is closely linked, and we all depend on the water that the springs and reservoirs provide, rubbish collections and energy provisions (e.g. solar/wood/diesel and wind generated electricity) in our homes.

Because the space we live on is only 47 square miles, we can often see immediately how we impact the environment by what we do either at work or at home. We all know examples of how that impact is really positive (e.g. reusing tyres in gardens, recycling glass for tables, solar panels, habitat restoration at the millennium forest) and we all know examples of how that impact is not so positive (e.g. litter in some areas, whiteweed taking over pastures).

St. Helena is also host to land plants and animals that are found only here: 45 endemic plants, 400 endemic land invertebrates. In the sea there are more than a dozen endemic coastal fish species and research into marine invertebrates will commence shortly. Our pride in this uniqueness is shown through us choosing the Saint Helena Wirebird (*Charadrius sanctaehelena*), as our National Bird.

St. Helena has entered a new phase in its history and the 'airport project' and accompanying economic development means that there will be more activity on island, and more activity within our environment. This

plan has been written to ensure there is effective environmental management, during this phase. This will be done primarily through the provision of a robust policy and legislative framework with systems for assessment of new projects and initiatives to ensure they adhere to policies and legislation. Regular monitoring will ensure that policies and legislation are complied with. These systems will be built on the foundation of stakeholder engagement and communication.

Environmental and Natural resources have the potential to become the key drives of future economic growth, in particular they are a key resource for a developing tourism sector.

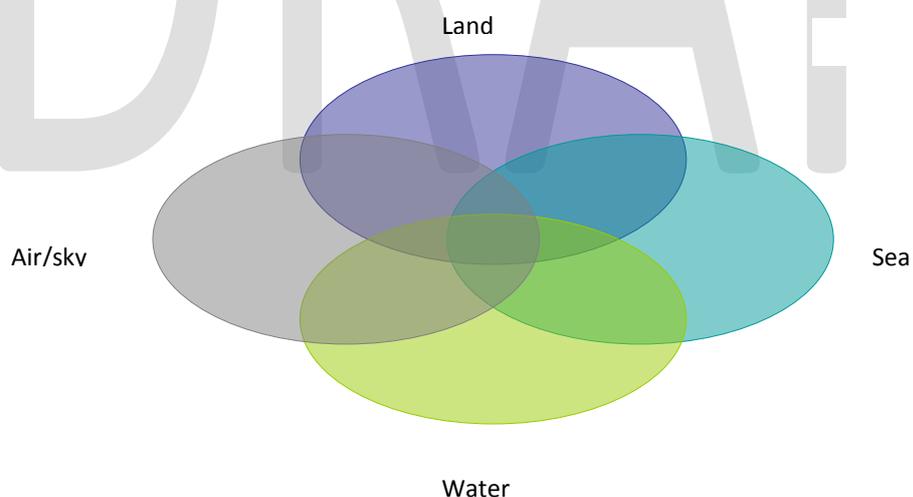
St. Helena is signatory to a number of International Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs). Where possible, this plan will be cross referenced to demonstrate how MEA implementation is also being delivered through this plan.

2. APPROACH OF THIS PLAN

This is a 10 year plan. A comprehensive review of the plan will be done after 5.

10 key objectives will form the basis of this plan. Cross-cutting approaches/areas will be addressed at the beginning of the plan. This will be followed by 4 sections addressing all areas of the natural environment as outlined in the following Venn diagram. Mechanisms and processes for implementing policies and targets will be outlined at the end.

FOUR KEY COMPONENTS OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT



3. VISION:

Strengthened community and family life through vibrant economic growth, a healthy environment and with opportunities for all to participate, within a framework of effective government and law.

4. AIM

This plan aims to implement St. Helena's third national goal: Effective management of the environment. This will be done by mainstreaming environment¹ through the establishment of a set of high level environmental objectives and targets for St. Helena², and the creation/confirmation of systems and processes for ensuring that these environmental objectives are meaningfully considered in legislation, policy, planning and decision-making.

5. OBJECTIVES³

- A. Engage the island community and stakeholders in effective environmental management including through **promotion of the benefits** of the environment for Island Residents and Tourists and through **sustainable use**.
- B. Enhance implementation through **participatory planning, knowledge management** and **capacity building**.
- C. Address the underlying causes of environmental degradation by **mainstreaming environment** across government and society.
- D. St. Helena's environment, both terrestrial and marine, **safeguarded for future generations** through effective environmental management⁴ including through improving the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity.
- E. Environmental conditions improved and maintained through **better management of solid waste**⁵.
- F. Minimise the impact of **climate change** through effective mitigation and adaptation including through increased generation of energy from renewable sources⁶.
- G. Ensure that the quantity and quality of **potable water** supplies on St. Helena more than adequately address the needs of the population. Economic and social requirements arising from the predicted growth in demand for domestic, commercial and agricultural water met⁷.
- H. **Minimize air, light and noise pollution** through research policy and legislation.
- I. **Cultural heritage** to be protected⁸ including through ensuring the availability of open spaces for recreation.

6. TARGET AUDIENCE

The National Environmental Management Plan is for everyone on St. Helena i.e. the Public sector, the Private sector, Civil Society, youth, the Public, Residents and Visitors.

¹ Environmental mainstreaming has been defined as '*the informed inclusion of relevant environmental concerns into the decisions of institutions that drive national, local and sectoral development policy, rules, plans, investment and action*' (Dalal-Clayton and Bass, 2009). It is an approach that is being promoted across the UK Overseas Territories, with pilot studies in the Falkland Islands and the British Virgin Islands. The adoption of environmental mainstreaming in St. Helena's Environmental Management Plan will put St. Helena at the forefront of environmental mainstreaming in the Overseas Territories.

² These are based on the goals and targets set under the Convention on Biological Diversity, with additions and modifications to include all aspects of environment, and to make relevant to the St. Helena context.

³ The objectives have been set by matching a range of National and International Environmental objectives, and adapting to make relevant to St. Helena and this plan. The matching exercise is outlined in Appendix 1

⁴ SDP Strategic Objective 6.2

⁵ SDP Strategic Objective 5.2

⁶ Cross references to SDP strategic objective 5.1: Saint Helena's financial security enhanced and environmental impact minimised by increasing the share of renewable energy generation.

⁷ SDP Strategic Objective 5.3

⁸ SDP Strategic Objective 6.4

Definition box:

Mainstreaming as used in the context of this plan means ‘the informed inclusion of relevant environmental concerns into the decisions of institutions that drive national, local and sectoral development policy, rules, plans, investment and action

7 LINKS TO SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT NATIONAL GOAL

Strong Community and family life is another of St. Helena’s three National Goals. A social policy plan is being developed to outline in more detail how this goal will be implemented.

The environment is a key component of strong community and family life.

Sustainable practise in homes can make a significant contribution to making savings for houses. This includes:

- Reductions in energy bills e.g. through using low energy light bulbs, energy efficient appliances. Possibilities for household energy generation can also be explored.
- Reductions in water bills e.g. through using water from rainwater tanks for gardens

More sustainable ways of building homes⁹ will be promoted via section 1.4 of the ‘Laying the foundation for future generations – A housing strategy for St. Helena 2012-2022’.

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Green guidelines for homes created and implemented by March 2015

LEAD:EMD/ H & SW.

Case Study: Household energy generation

TEXT TO BE ADDED



The natural environment provides the opportunity and space for exercise and recreation for both individuals and families.

- A number of footpaths within and outside National Conservation Areas will be maintained for use by all.
- Francis Plain sports field will continue to be maintained for use by schools and the community.

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Footpaths maintained at least once a year

LEAD: ESH.

TARGET: Francis Plain sports field regularly maintained

LEAD: Education and Employment.

⁹ E.g. bioclimatic architecture, water harvesting, using environmentally sustainable and/or renewable building materials where possible.

- Green spaces in districts will continue to be maintained for use by all (these include Longwood Green, Sandy Bay Community Centre, Blue Hill Community Centre, Horse Pasture, Jamestown Public Gardens).
- Areas for off-road biking and driving will be formalised.
- Areas and paths for mountain biking will be formalised.
- Marine-based recreation will be supported where feasible.
- Public awareness campaigns for healthy living will be supported.

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Green Spaces in districts maintained at least once a year

LEAD: tbc

TARGET: Areas for off-road biking and driving and mountain biking formalised by 2016

LEAD: tbc

TARGET: Healthy living public awareness campaigns run annually

LEAD: H&SW

TARGET: 10 year agricultural production plan produced and implemented by 2013

LEAD: ANRD

The natural environment also provides opportunity for healthy eating for both individuals and families. The 'buy local' campaign will be supported, and local business producing fresh food products for individuals, families and businesses will be supported. The National Agriculture Plan will provide the policy framework for this.

Case Study: Roddy's Chicken Farm



Roddy started his chicken farm in 2010. The aim of the business is to provide St. Helena with fresh local eggs and in doing so reduce our carbon footprint. As a result of this innovative business, Solomons and Company no longer import eggs. Roddy now supplies Solomons with 180 dozen eggs per week. The farm is supplying an average of 250 dozen eggs weekly in total to private outlets and caterers.

7.1 CIVIL SOCIETY

Civil Society plays a major role in social development, and civil society input into environmental initiatives will be supported and encouraged. A process for working with civil societies to 'green' their organisations will also be developed (see section 10).

Definition box:

Civil Society in this context relates to non-governmental organisations

Case Study: St. Helena Active Participation in Enterprise

SHAPE is a social enterprise and a registered charity.

Why recycle?

SHAPE is environmentally conscious. We hope to do our bit to reduce the carbon footprint on the island whilst providing meaningful employment for disabled and vulnerable people

Machinery

- Commercial shredder
- Hollander Beater
Presently producing 15 Kg a day
Looking to purchase a Hydropulper which has capacity to produce 2-3 tonnes pulp per day

What do we recycle?

- Paper
- Card
- Materials (jeans)



What do we make?

- Paper
- Cards
- Bowls
- Photo Frames
- Fuel bricks
- Packaging for products
- Jewellery

We are also using

- Flax
- Aloe
- Wool

Data

We don't have much data at moment as we are compiling this at present

- 1 bundle of firebricks equivalent to one bundle of wood
- 5kg of paper will make 12/13 fuel bricks
- We sell 10 bricks for £1.00.



Figure 1: Jewellery from recycled paper

Case Study: St. Helena National Trust

The St. Helena National Trust's current strategic vision is to work with others to protect the island's built, natural and cultural heritage assets. The Trust aims to:

1. Preserve St. Helena's world class built heritage;
2. Help St. Helena's Unique flora and fauna to thrive again;
3. Support a sustainable tourism-based economic future for St Helena;
4. Enhance St. Helena's traditional skills as a basis for growth;
5. Reconnect St. Helena to the world: and
6. Increase awareness of St. Helena's built and natural assets and work in partnership to conserve them.



Contact: Adam Wolfe, Director, St Helena National Trust, Broadway House, Jamestown, St Helena Island, STHL 1ZZ, SOUTH ATLANTIC. Tel: +290 2190; sth.nattrust@cwimail.sh or director@shnt.org.uk

7.2 YOUTH

St. Helena's youth are the future of the island, and young people's thinking, behaviour and attitudes towards the environment will form an important part of the implementation of this plan. Working with young people through the Education and Employment directorate will be an important part of the communications and stakeholder engagement strategy, as will collaboration with youth organisations such as New Horizons and the Youth Parliament.

Demonstration Projects

To promote the natural environment, its links with society and businesses, 2 new Green spaces will be created in Half Tree Hollow.

One of these will be included in the development brief of the Comprehensive Development Area Development. This Green space will be primarily focussed on recreation. It will be a community-based project and will, ideally, be led by a Civil Society Organisation.

The second green space will be a community garden, where fresh food will be grown for the community by the community.



Figure 2: Half Tree Hollow copyright Edward Thorpe

8. LINKS TO ECONOMIC GROWTH NATIONAL GOAL

A vibrant economy providing opportunities for all to participate is the first of St. Helena's three National Goals

The natural environment is seen as a key component of the economic growth plan for St. Helena. The Sustainable Economic Development Plan recognises that 'sustainability has to be a central consideration in all economic activities'. St. Helena's environment is one of its key selling points in terms of its tourism and fishing products. Protecting and enhancing these resources will be vital. In order for the island to move towards financial self-sufficiency it must ensure that its overall tourism and fishing products improves over time. **Branding of St. Helena as a green location** will also be an important part of its strategy to attract people to the island¹⁰.

The branding of St. Helena as a green location means that 'green' needs to be mainstreamed across all of St. Helena – including government, businesses and individuals.

The policies and processes outlined in this plan will take the island forward in developing its 'green' credentials.

The **Tourism strategy** is the overarching policy document for the development of tourism and an environmental review of the strategy has been carried out and will be fed into the development of tourism.

The two major developments on the island at present are both abiding by very 'green' practices. The detail of environmental management for the airport project has been outlined in section 12. Shelco, the other major investor aims to be the 'greenest hotel in the world'. This sets a precedent for the island, and is a big step towards the 'green brand' that we are aiming for.

These initiatives will provide economic drivers for other businesses on the island to consider their 'green' credentials. As potential sub-contractors and suppliers, other businesses will need to show that they are environmentally friendly.

The Environmental Management Directorate will be working with Enterprise St. Helena and the business community to prepare and provide advice on **green guidelines and best practice for large and small businesses**.

Definition Box: 'Green' in this context means 'sustainable' through the implementation of environmental processes, plans, policies and standards as outlined in this plan.

A 'green rating/certification' system for businesses will be introduced to enable individuals, government and other businesses to make informed environmental decisions when choosing

suppliers, buyers etc.

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Environmental review of the tourism strategy incorporated into an updated tourism strategy by March 2013

LEAD: ESH and EMD

TARGET: Green guidelines and best practice for large and small businesses produced by March 2013

LEAD: :ESH and EMD

TARGET: Green rating/certification system for businesses created and implemented by 2016

LEAD: ESH.

¹⁰ Sustainable Economic Development Plan (SEDP) page 10.

Section 10 outlines a process for ensuring that there is environmental proofing of Business Plans to ensure they complement the agreed environmental objectives of St. Helena.

Businesses that focus specifically on, and contribute to effective management of the environment will also be encouraged.

Case Study: Michael Benjamin Glass Recycling

In 2010 Michael Benjamin created an innovative green business to St. Helena. His business focuses on recycling glass. Used glass (bottles, jars, containers etc) are put through a machine called a Krysteline GP5 and come out the other end as a product that has multiple uses. Currently Michael uses the produce as aggregate in the creation of outdoor furniture (tables, stools), outdoor tiles, plant pots and paving tiles. Trials are being done to explore the use of recycled glass as aggregate for blocks for house-building.

Reduction in the creation and generation of waste will be encouraged through green guidelines for procurement. Implementation of these guidelines will contribute to green certification.

Reduction in **carbon footprint** will be encouraged, through support for the 'buy local' campaign and through **green guidelines for procurement**. Implementation of these guidelines will contribute to green certification.

The St. Helena Government Corporate Procurement strategy contains a section that references sustainability.

The 'greening businesses' initiative will be supported by **regular training programmes**.

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Green guidelines for procurement created and implemented by March 2015

LEAD: ESH and Corporate Procurement

TARGET: Greening your business training programmes will be held every six months

LEAD: ESH.

Figure 3: we can go green too copyright Edward Thorpe



9. CROSS CUTTING ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS: PEOPLE

People are at the heart of the environment. What people do and how people interact with the environment is the basis of effective environmental management.

Working with people will be a core component of the implementation of the National Environmental Management Plan, and communications and stakeholder engagement will be an integral part of this.

All Objectives relate to people – however those with particular focus on this area are:

- A. Engage the island community and stakeholders in effective environmental management including through promotion of the benefits of the environment for Island Residents and Tourists including through sustainable use.
- B. Enhance implementation through participatory planning, knowledge management and capacity building.
- C. Address the underlying causes of environmental degradation by mainstreaming environment across government and society.

9.1 COMMUNICATIONS AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Stakeholder engagement and communications with the community, key stakeholders and visitors will be key to the successful delivery of this plan. A communications and stakeholder engagement strategy will be developed¹¹. A key component of this strategy will be working with schools and young people.

All new policies will include public consultation, in line with the established SHG policy development processes.

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Create a communications and stakeholder engagement strategy by March 2013

LEAD :EMD.

TARGET: Implement communications and stakeholder engagement strategy 2013 - 2020

LEAD: EMD, Education and Employment.



Figure 4: working together copyright Edward Thorpe

¹¹ Ideas for what this strategy should contain include: Promoting responsible use of the marine environment.

10. CROSS CUTTING ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS: MAINSTREAMING ENVIRONMENT ACROSS GOVERNMENT AND SOCIETY

All objectives relate to the mainstreaming of environment however the one with particular focus on this area is:

C. Address the underlying causes of environmental degradation by mainstreaming environment across government and society.

There are a number of positive steps that are currently taken to mainstream environment across policy, and decision-making in **St. Helena Government** as outlined in Appendix xx. However there are still some gaps, and the targets for SHG over the next 18 months will be to address these gaps.

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Environmental mainstreaming policy framework adopted by SHG by April 2013

LEAD: EMD.

TARGET: Environmental decision-making framework adopted by SHG by April 2013

LEAD: EMD.

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Environmental mainstreaming policy framework adopted by ESH, Private Sector and Civil Society by December 2014

LEAD: ESH, Private Sector, Civil Society

TARGET: Environmental decision-making framework adopted by ESH, Private Sector and Civil Society by December 2014

LEAD: ESH, Private Sector, Civil Society

There are some steps that are taken by individual businesses and civil societies to mainstream environment within the business including in planning and decision-making (e.g. Pink Flamingo glass recycling, SHAPE paper recycling, Shelco's proposed approach to development, Aaron Adventure Tours) however 'green' considerations are not adopted by the majority of businesses and civil societies. The targets are for businesses and civil societies to 'go green' by December 2014.

11. CROSS CUTTING ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS: LEGISLATION

A review of the existing environmental legislative framework was carried out in 2008 and identified requirements and gaps. This National Environmental Management Plan creates the policy framework upon which additional legislation will be built as required.

Compliance with existing environmental ordinances and regulations will of course be required.

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Environmental legislation enacted and legislative framework adopted by SHG by December 2013

LEAD: EMD

12. CROSS CUTTING ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS: AIRPORT

The airport project is a defining project for this period of St. Helena's history and development. Prosperous Bay Plain, the site for the airport is ecologically sensitive and unique. Effective management of the environment is an integral part of the airport project.

An Environmental Impact Assessment of the airport project proposal resulted in an Environmental statement and 3 advance environmental mitigation projects.

The detail from the Environmental Statement formed the basis of an Airport Environmental Management Plan (EMP), which has fed into a Contractors Environmental Management Plan (CEMP) for airport construction, with a separate CEMP to be developed for airport operation.

These plans are implemented and monitored as follows: the contractor (Basil Read) has an Environment team on island who implement the requirements of the CEMP, this implementation is monitored by an independent environment monitor as part of the independent project monitoring unit (Halcrow). The St. Helena Government Environmental Management Directorate coordinates SHG's advisory and regulatory input.



Figure 5: The airport, Prosperous Bay copyright Edward Thorpe

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Coordinate SHG environmental responsibilities under the airport project.

LEAD: EMD.

13. CROSS CUTTING ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS: ENVIRONMENTAL RISK AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT.

Currently there is no environmental risk management. Processes for Environmental Risk Management will be established. There is also no comprehensive preparedness for environmental disasters. Risk assessments of natural hazards will be mainstreamed in relevant government policies such as the Disaster Management Plan. This is both to reduce the vulnerability to these hazards and to anticipate the environmental consequences of disaster.

TARGET: Coordinate SHG environmental responsibilities under the airport project.

LEAD: EMD

14. CROSS CUTTING ENVIRONMENTAL COMPONENTS: CLIMATE CHANGE

Consideration of the impacts of climate change is important for effective management of the natural environment.

Objective that relates directly to climate change is:

- G. Minimize the impact of climate change through effective mitigation and adaptation including through increased generation of energy from renewable resources.

Delivery of this objective will be through the creation of new policy/policy statements where relevant policy/legislation does not exist.

There is no **climate change policy**. In the absence of any policy the following statement provides a high level approach to climate change management:

Climate change adaptation and mitigation needs to be considered in all relevant policy, planning and decision-making. There will be a requirement for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, and reduction in carbon footprint where feasible.

Baseline data will also need to be collected to feed into the development of the climate change policy.

An **Energy Generation Strategy** will be developed to progress development of renewable energy to adding to the wind and solar power currently used on island.

The island wide **Transport plan** is required under the sustainable development plan. An environmental review of the plan will be carried out¹².



Figure 6: Measuring cloud cover copyright Robyn Sim

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Climate change policy created by December 2014

LEAD :EMD.

TARGET: Develop data set and collect data relevant to climate change research. Work with the UK Meteorological Office and other international organisations to strengthen climate change predictions for St. Helena by March 2014.

LEAD: EMD.

TARGET: Energy Generation Strategy implemented.

LEAD: Energy Division

TARGET: Environmental review of the Island transport plan developed in 2012.

LEAD: SPPU

¹² Note: To include consideration of CFC emission standards for vehicles, minimization of private car use, environmentally efficient transport, minimisation of congestion.

15. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT KEY COMPONENT 1: LAND AND LAND USE

Land is a key component of the natural environment, and effective management of land use by people, plants and animals is key to effective management of the natural environment.

Objectives that relate directly to the effective management of land are:

- D. St. Helena environment both terrestrial and marine **safeguarded for future generations** through effective environmental management¹³ including through improving the status of biodiversity by safeguarding ecosystems, species and genetic diversity¹⁴.
- E. Environmental conditions improved and maintained through **better management of solid waste**¹⁵.
- F. **Cultural heritage** to be protected¹⁶ including through ensuring the availability of open spaces for recreation.

Delivery of these objectives will be through the implementation of existing policy/legislation where relevant policy/legislation exists.

The core policy document on St. Helena for Land development is the **Land Development Control Plan (LDCP)**. The St. Helena Land Development Control Plan 2012-2022 underwent a robust strategic social and environmental assessment process, the majority of environmental recommendations were incorporated into the final version of the LDCP. The LDCP therefore provides a robust policy framework¹⁷ for environmental considerations relating to land planning, which includes an **Environmental Impact Assessment** process¹⁸.

Under the LDCP 23 **National Conservation Areas (NCAs)** have been established. National Conservation Area Management Plans will be established for these conservation areas, and will provide the policy framework for land use management within National Conservation Areas. 14 National Conservation Areas have been designated primarily because of their Natural Heritage¹⁹.

There are also **Species Action plans** for high priority endangered plant and bird species. As yet species plans have not been developed for land invertebrates. Consideration will also be given to bees.

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Continue to implement the requirements of the Land Development Control Plan for all planning applications.

LEAD: SHG Planning with Environmental input from EMD.

TARGET: Develop National Conservation Area Management Plans: Diana's Peak National Park by July 2012; Sandy Bay National Park by December 2012. All NCA Natural Heritage management Plans developed by 2016.

LEAD: EMD.

TARGET: Implement – prioritised species action plans and create new ones where required

LEAD: EMD, ANRD.

¹³ SDP Strategic Objective 6.2

¹⁴ This will be done through

- Conserving endangered species and habitats through the development of strategic direction of conservation works, studies, education and policy.
- Undertaking and /or commissioning research to fill priority evidence gaps and ensuring evidence is incorporated into decision making
- Ensuring that marine and terrestrial biological resources are sustainably managed through works, studies, assessment, monitoring, policies and programmes

¹⁵ SDP Strategic Objective 5.2

¹⁶ SDP Strategic Objective 6.4

¹⁷ Note: this is a broad framework and further detail is needed to aid implementation.

¹⁸ Guidelines for Environmental Impact assessment can be found at <http://www.sainthelena.gov.sh/pages/environment.html>

¹⁹ LDCP Section 24 'Natural Heritage' outlines planning policies for Natural Heritage pp 43-45.

A large proportion of the land on St. Helena is currently owned by the St. Helena Government. A **Land Disposal Policy** has been created to *establish a framework for the disposal of Crown Land in support of the St. Helena Government's principles of economic growth through Investment and Tourism development. SHG will make Crown Land and Buildings available for private and commercial use, so far as it is consistent with the overall need to secure the optimum sustainable use of St. Helena's natural resources.*

TARGET: Crown estates strategy to include provision for making best use of existing land and buildings.

LEAD: SHG Crown Estates with Environmental input from EMD, householders.

Case study

Current NCA management plan and species action plan delivery includes control of invasives on Diana's Peak National Park and the propagation of endemic species within the ANRD nurseries. This work will be continued.

A **Housing Strategy** has been developed and there is a presumption within this strategy in favour of using **sustainable building materials** and creating **sustainable homes**.

TARGET: An environmental review of the draft Agricultural policy is undertaken.

LEAD: ANRD.

A new **National Agriculture Policy** will be developed and this will be reviewed to ensure the environment has been objectively considered.

A **Solid Waste Management Strategy** is being developed and there is a presumption in this strategy in favour of reducing waste production and recycling²⁰.

TARGET: Create the solid waste management strategy and implement accompanying plan by December 2013

LEAD: EMD, H&SW, ESH, Private Sector, Public.

St. Helena is signed up to a regional **Invasive Species Strategy**. This outlines an approach to managing invasive species on St. Helena. This will be complimented by a **Biosecurity strategy**²¹

TARGET Implement priority areas of the invasive species strategy and develop biosecurity strategy by 2013.

LEAD: ANRD, EMD.

St. Helena's **Roads Policy**²² has recently undergone an environmental review and this will be fed into the development/update of the policy.

TARGET: Review roads policy to provide a framework for the management of the roads environment. **By 2015**

LEAD: EMD/Roads section.



Figure 7: St. Helena ebony copyright Edward Thorpe

²⁰ LDCP section 14 'Solid Waste' outlines planning policies for solid waste pp 24-26.

²¹ Note: the biosecurity strategy will include both marine and terrestrial invasives.

²² LDCP section 15 'Roads and Transport' outlines planning policies for roads pp 26-28.

Delivery of these objectives will be through the creation and implementation of new policy/policy statements where relevant policy/legislation does not exist.

There is currently no policy on **footpaths and recreation areas** although consideration is given to them in the LDCP and Post Box walks are an important component of the tourism strategy. In the absence of a policy, the following statement provides a high level approach to footpaths:

Footpaths shall be kept open wherever reasonably practicable. Where it is not possible to keep footpaths open, an alternative route shall be agreed with xxx.

There is currently no **cultural heritage policy**. Similarly there is no policy for archaeology. In the absence of a policy the following statement provides a high level approach to cultural heritage:

*St. Helena has a rich **cultural heritage** evolving from its discovery in 1502. This is reflected in Saints and Saint culture which create the uniqueness of St. Helena of which we are all very proud. St. Helena's cultural heritage needs to be considered in policy, planning and decision-making.*

There is a **built heritage policy** in the LDCP²³ which relates to planning, and 9 of the National Conservation Areas are focused on conservation of the built heritage. **National Conservation Area Management Plans** will provide the policy framework for built heritage conservation in these areas.

There is no **carrying capacity** policy. In the absence of any policy the following statement provides a high level approach to carrying capacity on the land:

Carrying capacity of National Conservation Areas and of the island as a whole need to be considered in policy, planning and decision-making.

TARGET: Baseline data collection will be commissioned as required.

Requirements for policies relating to footpaths, public rights of way, cultural heritage, archaeology and carrying capacity explored by December 2013.

Lead: SPPU.

Figure 8: Creating products from recycling paper at SHAPE copyright Edward Thorpe



Figure 9: Our island our people copyright Edward Thorpe

²³ LDCP section 25 'built heritage' outlines planning policies for built heritage pp. 46-48.

The sea and the coastal zone are key components of the natural environment, and effective management of use by people, is key to effective management of the natural environment. St. Helena's marine environment includes its 200nm EEZ.

Key objectives that relate to the effective management of the sea are:

- A. Engage the island community and stakeholders in effective environmental management including through **promotion of the benefits** of the environment for Residents and Tourists and through **sustainable use**²⁴.
- B. **Cultural heritage** to be protected²⁵ including through ensuring the availability of open spaces for recreation.

Delivery of these objectives will be through the implementation of existing policy and legislation where it exists.

The **Commercial Fishing Policy** exists but needs to be reviewed to ensure that St. Helena's Fishery is sustainable²⁶.

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Environmental Review of the Commercial Fishing Policy by Dec 2012

LEAD: EMD.

Delivery of these objectives will be through the creation of new policy/policy statements where relevant policy/legislation does not exist.

There are currently no **marine protected areas**²⁷ in the absence of marine protected areas and a marine management plan²⁸, the following statement provides a high level approach to considering conservation and sustainable use of the marine environment:

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Create and implement a marine management plan by March 2015

LEAD: EMD.

Sustainable use of the marine environment and conservation of marine habitats and species must be considered in all policy planning and decision-making relating to the marine environment.

²⁴ This will include:

- A. Conserving endangered species and habitats through the development of strategic direction of conservation works, studies, education and policy.
- B. Undertaking and /or commissioning research to fill priority evidence gaps and ensuring evidence is incorporated into decision making
- C. Ensuring that marine and terrestrial biological resources are sustainably managed through works, studies, assessment, monitoring, policies and programmes

²⁵ SDP Strategic Objective 6.4

²⁶ NOTE initial thinking includes identifying gaps in fishing licensing scheme and add conservation measures and penalties to licenses with robust and realistic enforcement.

²⁷ Note: The LDCP provides for a marine biological reserve (MBR) – Section 24.15 pg 43.

²⁸ Note: Ensure that NCAs include protection and policies pertaining to the safeguarding of habitats e.g. guano collection.

Species Action plans will also be developed for coastal and marine species.

There is no **marine archaeology** policy. In the absence of any policy the following statement provides a high level approach to marine pollution:

Marine archaeology must be considered in policy, planning and decision-making relating to the marine environment

There is no **marine pollution policy**. In the absence of any policy the following statement provides a high level approach to marine pollution:

Minimization of marine pollution needs to be considered in policy, planning and decision-making relating to the marine environment

There is no **carrying capacity** policy. In the absence of any policy the following statement provides a high level approach to carrying capacity in the sea:

Carrying capacity of Marine Protected Areas and of the sea around the island needs to be considered in policy, planning and decision-making.

TARGET: Baseline data collection will be commissioned as required.

Requirements for policies relating to marine archaeology, marine pollution, and carrying capacity explored by December 2013.

Lead: SPPU

TARGET: marine and coastal species action plans developed

Lead: EMD

Figure 10: Bottlenose dolphin research copyright EMD marine section



A subtidal research-based marine project will commence in Autumn 2012 to provide an inventory of St. Helena's marine and coastal life. Other projects that will investigate the state of the surrounding sea and monitor important marine life will also be implemented.

17. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT KEY COMPONENT 3: WATER

Water is a key component of the natural environment, and effective management of water use by people, plants and animals is key to effective management of the natural environment.

Objectives that relate directly to the effective management of water are:

- C. Ensure that the quantity and quality of **potable water** supplies on St. Helena more than adequately address the needs of the population. Economic and social requirements arising from the predicted growth in demand for domestic, commercial and agricultural water met²⁹.

Delivery of this objective will be through the implementation of existing policy/legislation where relevant policy/legislation exists.

Sustainable abstraction of water and provision of potable water is delivered through the water resources plan currently being developed by Fairhurst.

All new commercial developments should provide a sustainable drainage strategy at the design/planning stage

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Water management best practice developed and implementation begins by 2016

LEAD: I&U Water division.

Delivery of these objectives will be through the creation of new policy/policy statements where relevant policy/legislation does not exist.

There is no **sewage and stormwater and surface drainage policy**. However the LDCP outlines planning policies for sewage³⁰. In the absence of any policy the following statement provides a high level approach to sewage management:

Management of sewage and stormwater and surface drainage needs to be considered in policy, planning and decision-making relating to the marine environment

There is no **freshwater ecology** policy. In the absence of any policy the following statement provides a high level approach to freshwater ecology:

In areas where freshwater ecology sits outside of National Conservation Areas and is subsequently not addressed through National Conservation Area Management Plans, conservation of freshwater species and habitats needs to be considered in relevant policy, planning and decision-making

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Develop and implement a sewage policy by 2016

LEAD: I&U.

TARGET: Research freshwater ecology by 2016.

LEAD: EMD.

²⁹ SDP Strategic Objective 5.3

³⁰ LDCP Section 13 'sewerage and storm drainage' outlines policies for sewerage and storm drainage. Pp 22-24.

18. NATURAL ENVIRONMENT KEY COMPONENT 4: AIR AND SKY

The air and the sky are key components of the natural environment, and effective management of both is key to effective management of the natural environment.

Objectives that relate to the effective management of air and sky are:

D. **Minimize air, light and noise pollution** through research policy and legislation³¹.

Delivery of this objective will be through the creation of new policy/policy statements where relevant policy/legislation does not exist.

There is no **air/dust (atmospheric) pollution policy**. In the absence of any policy the following statement provides a high level approach to air/dust (atmospheric) pollution management:

Minimization of sources of air/dust pollution needs to be considered in all relevant policy, planning and decision-making.

There is no **noise pollution policy**. In the absence of any policy the following statement provides a high level approach to noise pollution:

Minimization of noise pollution needs to be considered in all relevant policy, planning and decision-making.

There is no **light pollution policy**. In the absence of any policy the following statement provides a high level approach to light pollution:

Minimization of light pollution needs to be considered in all relevant policy, planning and decision-making.

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Atmospheric pollution policy created and implemented by 2014

LEAD: EMD.

TARGET: Noise Pollution policy created and implemented by 2014

LEAD: EMD.

TARGET: Light pollution policy created and implemented by 2014

LEAD: EMD/I&U Energy Division.

³¹ See also Section 13 for cross-referenced links with climate change

19 MECHANISMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION

19.1 FINANCING

A number of the initiatives and policies promoted in this plan are already linked to funded implementation plans. However there are a number of new policies, collaborations and initiatives that require financing. Sustainable financing mechanisms for effective management of the environment will also need to be considered.

Current funding for government directorates comes through SHG recurrent and capital budgets. SHG funding also supports some civil societies, and recently government announced a new £50,000 civil society fund. Enterprise St. Helena also provide financial support for businesses.

There are a number of additional funding sources available for environmental projects on St. Helena - this includes the Bank of St. Helena Community fund, the Overseas Territories Programme Fund, the Overseas Territories Environment Programme, the Darwin Initiative Funds, the Flagship Species Fund, the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC) Research and Training Programme, the European BEST programme. A number of these funds have been used for projects on St. Helena, however they are for one-off projects only.

As part of the 'greening' process, financial incentives for 'going green' will be explored, and a green financing mechanism established³².

Economic valuation of the environment will also be considered.

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Funding sources for environmental projects sign-posted on SHG website by December 2012

LEAD: EMD.

TARGET: Green financing mechanism established by March 2014

LEAD: Finance.

³² Current ideas for areas to be considered in this financing mechanism include an environment fund from some/all of the following sources:

- a component of visitors landing fee.
- a fee for research permits and licensing and for reviewing environmental assessments and providing input into the scoping opinion.
- a visitors National Conservation Area roving pass for unlimited access to all National Conservation Areas.
- a fee for business whose product is the natural environment.
- A percentage of existing fees for businesses go to the environment.
- Sponsorship: Plant a tree/adopt a wirebird/historic building/important habitat.
- Charging for endemic plant seedlings and tours of SHG endemic plant nursery.

And 'green incentives' to include some/all of the following

- Subsidies on environmentally-friendly products e.g. solar panels.
- Subsidies for 'green' businesses.
- Planning gain/trade off.

Funding management:

- Special Environmental Management fund created – overseen by the NRDEC (with advice from EMD).

19.2 HUMAN RESOURCES

A number of the initiatives and policies promoted in this plan are already linked to directorates and organisations that have specialist and appropriate human resources to deliver on targets.

However to build environmental skills and expertise across the board, it is important that training programmes are developed and offered. There are currently a small number of environmental courses that are run on the island, these include an environmental NVQ course provided by the National Trust, and the Introduction to Data Management developed by the Environmental Management Directorate. Additional training courses in gap and new areas³³ will need to be developed as an important component of the implementation of this plan.

Some of the new areas of development might require additional/reallocation of staff within St. Helena Government³⁴.

Innovative ways of tapping into external expertise will also be explored this includes through:

- Developing links with other Overseas Territories through existing networks such as the JNCC Overseas Territories Training and Research Programme and the UK Overseas Territories Conservation Forum.
- Formalising individual links with experts to create a St. Helena environmental advisory group.
- Sign-posting relevant e-networks will be sign-posted on the St. Helena Government website.
- Collaborative working: good examples of this will be developed through participatory approaches to National Conservation Area Management Planning, and through the community-based demonstration project.
- Exploring voluntourism/scientific tourism as a potential research resource.

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Environmental Training programme developed by March 2015

LEAD: EMD

TARGET: External expertise channels formalised by March 2014

LEAD: EMD

Environmental Management Directorate (EMD)



Figure 11: EMD launch April 2012

St. Helena Government launched its new Environmental Management Directorate in April 2012. Its mission is to be the focus of environmental management for the St. Helena Government through the creation and implementation of policy and regulation, and the provision of advice; underpinned by a clear, transparent research-led evidence base; supported by systematic monitoring and evaluation and a comprehensive communications and stakeholder strategy.

EMD will spearhead delivery of the National Environmental Management Plan

³³ Including archaeology,

³⁴ for example Marine protection officers with specific powers will be required to enforce marine management plans.

19.3 EVIDENCE BASE

It is important that policy, legislation, assessment and action are all built around a robust evidence-base. A National Environmental Data Management System will be developed this will include:

- Building on the existing spatial data system SHEIS.
- Developing a research permitting system.
- Developing National Data standards.
- Developing a Data share protocol.
- Data checks to ensure data accuracy, reliability and validity

Required research will be identified and commissioned to address knowledge gaps. This will include new scientific projects to support an evidence base for the protection of vulnerable terrestrial and marine species and habitats.

Core staff will underpin works including data collection and analysis will continue with core staff to provide evidence required to feed in to planning and decision-making

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: National Environmental Data Management System created and implemented by March 2013.

LEAD: EMD and I&U GIS.

Target: Research projects commissioned and/or undertaken by core staff.

LEAD: EMD.

Figure 12: Papanui copyright EMD marine section



20. ASSESSMENT AND MONITORING

An **Environmental Assessment and monitoring framework** will be developed which will outline how all plans, policies and projects will be assessed.

The **Environmental Assessment and monitoring framework** will outline:

- What needs to be assessed
- The parameters for assessment including **environmental standards**
- How results of the environmental assessment will be included in decision-making
- Roles and Responsibilities.
- How requirements under the assessment process will be monitored³⁵ including (but not limited to) existing assessments (E) and new assessments (N):
 - Environmental Impact Assessment – as required by the planning process (E).
 - Environmental Review of Policy – as required by policy development process (N).
 - Exco papers – as required by Exco memos (E).
 - SHG strategic Plans – An environmental Review will be included in the review of directorate plans. (N).
 - SDP – Environmental assessment of National Policies e.g. an environmental assessment of the current Sustainable Development Plan is required in April 2013 (E).
 - Environmental proofing of Business Plans (N).

Figure 13: Masked Boobies - copyright EMD Marine Section



TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Environmental Assessment and monitoring Framework created and implemented by March 2013

LEAD: EMD

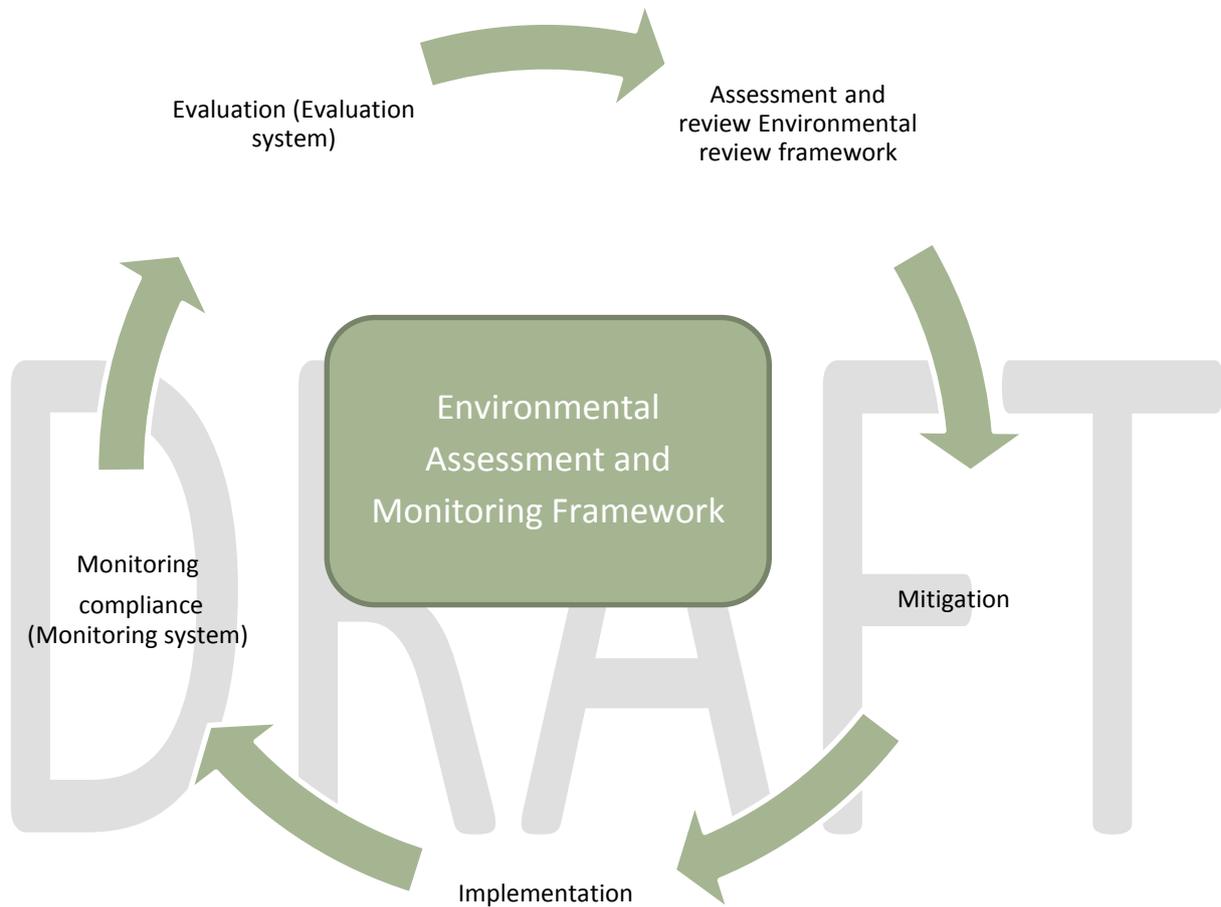
TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Environmental standards established by March 2014

LEAD: EMD

³⁵ Monitoring is likely to include Monitoring for compliance e.g. with National Conservation Area Management Plans, Assessment requirements, **Environmental standards**

Assessment and monitoring will be closely linked with mitigation and evaluation as outlined in the following diagram.



20. ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD

An Independent body - an **Environmental Scrutiny Board** will be established to monitor compliance and delivery of the National Environmental Management Plan.

TARGETS AND LEAD IMPLEMENTERS

TARGET: Environmental Scrutiny Board established with TORs and members by March 2013.

LEAD: EMD.

21. RISKS AND MITIGATION

| Risk | Impact and Probability | Mitigation | Impact and Probability after Mitigation | Lead |
|--|------------------------|---|---|--|
| Inertia – inability to make the necessary changes in the timeline due to changing mindsets, personalities getting in the way. | High and high | Strong leadership and focus on the result. Clearly assigned ownership and accountability and clearly defined responsibilities. | Medium and medium | Target leads as set out in plan – with EMD as overall lead |
| The financial and human resources are insufficient. | Medium and medium | Financing will be sought for SHG delivery of the plan through target inclusion the annual strategic planning process | Medium and Medium | Target leads as set out in the plan with EMD as overall lead |
| People do not ‘buy-in’ to managing the environment and do not support any of the initiatives. | Medium and medium | Positive communications in the local media and community/participatory approaches incorporated where possible. | Low and low | EMD |
| Delivery dependent on multiple directorates, organisations, individuals and businesses, therefore not easy to manage. | High and High | EMD will provide the focal point of delivery, and will monitor delivery by others. The Environmental Scrutiny Board will also play a role in monitoring delivery. | Medium and medium | Target leads as set out in the plan |
| The focus of economic development moves from sustainability to solely economic growth. | Low and low | Sustainability has been built into long term planning the Sustainable Economic Development Plan and the Sustainable Development Plan. | Low and low | ESH |
| Environmental degradation happens rapidly before all policies and processes within this plan are established. | High and low | Existing policies and processes provide a solid foundation for effective environmental management. | Low and low | SPPU |
| A major environmental disaster happens e.g. major storm/major oil/fuel spill. | High and low | Dealing with and preparedness for Environmental Disasters built into Disaster management plan. | High and low. | Police. |