

Sustainable Development Action Plan

November 2009 – March 2011



Photo by Neil Turner

The RV *Cefas Endeavour* passes under Tower Bridge on its way to an event held for ministers, lords and MPs

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Foreword

Cefas makes an important contribution to securing healthy marine and freshwater environments, and the sustainable use of associated resources. As an executive agency of Defra, we support a broad sustainability agenda by providing advice, evidence and support to UK Government and its agencies. Examples include:

- helping to **conserve and enhance the environment** as the lead advisor on a breadth of marine licensing issues, ranging from aggregate extraction to offshore renewables.
- supporting **the sustainable use of natural resources**. Annual surveys and assessment of marine fish stocks underpins our advice on fish quotas and stock recovery plans.
- **collecting, interpreting and managing data to support decisions** and strategic marine spatial planning. We use our 72-metre research vessel, the *Cefas Endeavour*, to study seabed ecology and assess biodiversity, and to deploy acoustic mapping devices to create seabed maps.
- the Fish Health Inspectorate (FHI), part of Cefas, undertaking statutory duties related to EU and national fish health legislation. The Inspectorate helps to **protect society from the effects of aquatic contaminants and fish disease** through licensing, monitoring and an enforcement programme aimed at fish and shellfish imports.
- **promoting adaptation to marine climate change impacts**, a key aspect of the Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership (MCCIP). We provide its Secretariat and produce its Annual Report Card: a high-level assimilation of related UK marine science knowledge in an accessible format for policy advisors and decision-makers.
- **enabling emergency response**, for example, when we provided advice and a monitoring programme following the grounding of the *MSC Napoli*. Our scientists also confirmed the first known outbreak of the notifiable fish disease Viral Haemorrhagic Septicaemia (VHS) in the UK. They co-ordinated the emergency response and effectively eradicated the outbreak.

This Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) sets out how we continue to contribute to SD and support Defra in the delivery of its own SDAP.

To reflect our continuing emphasis on health, safety and the environment, we have introduced a sustainability target. This is one of six ministerial targets upon which our performance is audited. The sustainability target is based on the delivery of the SDAP, sustaining ISO 14001 accreditation, and delivering health and safety key performance indicators and our health, safety and environment corporate plan.



Richard Judge
Chief Executive

1.0 Background and context

1.1 Our role in the delivery sustainable development

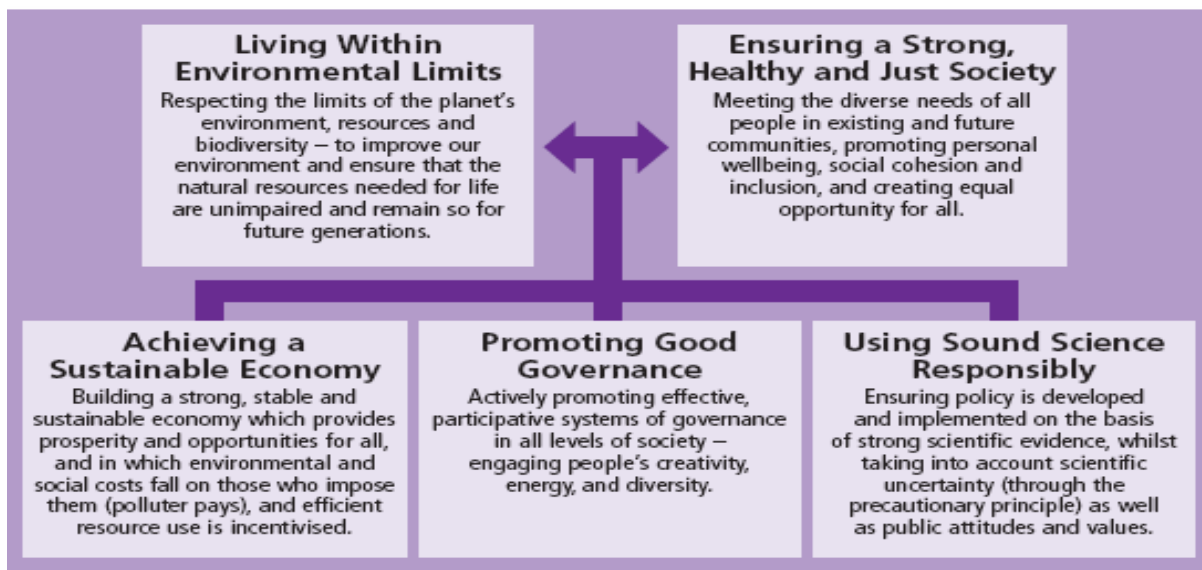
The Government's sustainable development (SD) goal is:

“to enable all people throughout the world to satisfy their basic needs and enjoy a better quality of life, without compromising the quality of life of future generations.”

To achieve this goal, the UK's SD strategy [Securing the Future](#) describes four shared priorities for UK action:

- sustainable consumption and production
- climate change and energy
- natural resource protection and environmental enhancement
- creating sustainable communities and a fairer world.

Securing the Future also describes the shared UK principles that will be used to achieve the four, shared priorities:



Defra champions SD across government, the UK and internationally and has the lead on the Public Service Agreements (PSAs) to “secure a healthy natural environment for everyone's well-being, health and prosperity, now and in the future”, and contributes to PSAs led by other government departments.

Defra's purpose and priorities reflect this PSA on the natural environment and also the Department of Energy and Climate Change's PSA on climate change. Defra's purpose is “to secure a healthy environment in which we and future generations can prosper”. Its priorities are to:

- secure a healthy natural environment for us all, and deal with environmental risks
- promote a sustainable, low-carbon and resource-efficient economy

- ensure a thriving farming sector and a sustainable, healthy and secure food supply.

To achieve this purpose and those priorities, Defra has nine Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSOs):

- adapting to climate change
- a healthy natural environment
- sustainable consumption and production
- environmental risk and emergencies
- championing SD
- a thriving farming and food sector
- a sustainable, secure and healthy food supply
- strong rural communities
- a respected department.

As an executive agency of, and a key delivery partner for, Defra, our business is inextricably linked to supporting Defra's PSA and DSOs. Our purpose reflects the need to deliver economic, social and environmental sustainability. We work alongside government and other agencies, both in the UK and internationally, to play a vital role in securing healthy marine and freshwater environments for everyone's well-being, health and prosperity. This includes providing leadership in understanding the challenges presented by climate change on aquatic environments and ecosystems, and associated options for mitigation and adaptation.

Our purpose is achieved by providing evidence-based scientific advice, managing related data and information, conducting world-class scientific research, and shaping and influencing policy through our internationally renowned science and through facilitating collaborative relationships that span EU, UK government, NGOs, research centres and industry. We apply expertise and knowledge gained through over 100 years of applied science and research to support Defra's DSOs. Annex A provides evidence of the degree that our scientific work supports those.

We also work with Defra to deliver SD by actively contributing to the Defra "family's" SDAP workshops. These provide the opportunity to share information and practice in developing SDAP and delivering SD. We provide input to the Defra SDAP.

We incorporate SD into both our technical work in delivering advice, evidence and support, and in the delivery of our business processes and infrastructure. We continue to build on our existing capabilities to ensure implications of our advice are explained in socio-economic terms as well as environmental ones, by working with affected industries and communities and reflecting the outcome in our advice. We have raised awareness of SD with staff by delivering both SD and "environmental awareness" briefings to teams at varying levels within the agency. We continue to encourage the implementation of SD into our staff's day-to-day working lives. This is done to provide an integrated approach to support and achieve our purpose, Defra's DSOs and PSAs, and the shared UK priorities and principles.

1.2 Benefits of embedding SD in Cefas

SD is at the heart of our business. In promoting SD we are promoting our vision, which is to make a real difference for society as recognised leaders in marine and aquatic science.

By implementing SD throughout our business, we benefit by:

- meeting the UK's SD strategy commitments
- demonstrating to Defra, partners, stakeholders, customers and staff that we are environmentally, socially and economically responsible
- reducing the environmental impact of our activities
- working efficiently (procuring less, using less, wasting less)
- increasing our competitive edge
- learning from the SDAP process and identifying "gaps" where action taken can improve our commitment to SD.

1.3 Our advice, evidence and support

We are not involved directly with national policy-making and hence do not routinely use regulatory impact assessments. However, we use "sound science responsibly" to deliver advice, evidence and support to government policy-makers to assist their decisions and policy implementation on key sustainable issues. These include global conventions, eg the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic and the Bergen Declaration; European direction, eg the Common Fisheries Policy; and national direction, eg the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009. Our main focus is on natural resource protection and environmental enhancement, climate change and energy, and sustainable consumption and production.

Delivering our advice, evidence and support requires an integrated approach that considers the social, economic and environmental aspects of an issue, to deliver the outcomes required by our customers. For instance:

- our leadership in environmental aspects: marine spatial planning and environmental licensing, sustainable fisheries management, marine biodiversity and habitats, fish and shellfish health and hygiene, climate change impacts and adaptation, and emergency response
- our capabilities to collect, manage and interpret a breadth of environmental, biodiversity and fisheries data to provide sound scientific evidence for decision-making
- our investment, through the QuEST (Quality and Excellence in Science and Technology) framework, to ensure Cefas science and technology capabilities continue to be at the "leading edge".

We increasingly provide work for overseas governments, the European Commission, national and multi-national industries (in the oil, energy, chemical, aggregate, marine sectors), regulators, enforcement agencies and other managers of coastal resources.

Internally, for management purposes, we operate through four customer-facing science divisions:

- Aquatic Health and Hygiene
- Environment and Ecosystems
- Fisheries
- Monitoring and Programme Management

Aquatic Health and Hygiene

This division focuses on fish and shellfish health, impacts of disease and on the environment, and the food safety associated with shellfish production areas. Its status as both a European Community and National Reference Laboratory gives it a high international profile.

This division includes the FHI, with its associated scientific support of diagnostic functions and disease research in finfish, shellfish, crustacea and amphibians. It is delivering emerging EU Directives, which also includes the practical implementation of risk-based assessments and greater industry participation.

Extensive work is carried out to monitor and assess potential impacts to human health from pathogens and toxins in shellfish. The work covers all aspects, from field sanitary surveys, to the development of innovative molecular laboratory diagnostic tools, and to shellfish monitoring in England, Wales and Scotland for harmful marine biotoxins.

Fisheries

This division provides annual advice on the status and management of UK and European marine fisheries and undertakes supporting research on fish biology, fishery-assessment methods and the likely effects of fishery-management decisions on fish stocks and the fishing industry. It also works on shellfish, salmonid and freshwater fisheries management where our advice is supported by strong, defensible science.

Its work links into broader environmental and socio-economic aspects – including the very successful Fisheries Science Partnership. The division has also been providing sustainability advice and sound science to underpin certification schemes for fisheries.

Environment and Ecosystems

This division focuses on the ecosystem approach to marine management, responding to the challenges posed by the EU Marine Strategy Directive, the Climate Change Act 2008, and the Marine and Coastal Access Act 2009 that set out the requirement for marine spatial planning.

It undertakes radiological, chemical and environmental risk assessments for a wide range of government and other customers, including emergency response, and important services include ecosystem modelling and habitat mapping. It leads on our marine climate change work.

The “ecosystem approach” to environmental management drives the division’s, and Cefas’, development programme, with its emphasis on joining up the different disciplines in ecological sciences to provide a full view of the interdependencies of human activity and environmental response to mitigate the effects of future developments.

Monitoring and Programme Management

This division enables our customers to realise maximum benefits from their research and monitoring programmes by providing efficient and effective data management, monitoring operations, and research programme implementation. It has a strong crosscutting remit, linking closely with the other three science divisions within Cefas. Its technical expertise provides a number of solutions to making and reporting continuous measurements in hostile environments, ranging from fish movements to wave and other oceanographic parameters.

The division is responding to a growing need for bespoke services in managing portfolios of contracts. The Programme Management group manages major research portfolios (eg, the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF)), our high-level agreement with Defra and EU contracts.

1.4 Building capacity

Our business is inextricably linked to SD through complying with the shared priorities for UK action – particularly natural resource protection and environmental enhancement. But we further embed SD into the business through our business planning system and communications strategy. The following documents support delivery of the SDAP and/or our purpose, Defra’s DSOs and PSAs (which, in turn, are linked to the UK’s shared priorities and principles for SD):

- Cefas Framework Document (v 4), April 2008
- Cefas Strategy 2009–14
- our ministerial targets
- the high-level agreement between Defra and Cefas, April 2007
- Cefas Business Plan 2009–10
- Annual Report and Accounts
- Sustainable Workplace Management (SWM) contract
- Cefas Environmental Management System Manual

We build capability for SD among our partners and alliances, which in turn delivers the following benefits:

- by developing joint concepts, we share goals
- enhanced reputation
- referrals publicity
- long-term agreements

Examples of our delivery partnerships and alliances, which support SD, are:

Partnerships

- We directly support the delivery of the aquatic-related aspects of Defra’s PSA “to secure a healthy natural environment for everyone’s well-being, health and prosperity, now and in the future”.
- Cefas will play an important role in providing a broad range of marine science and advisory services to the [Marine Management Organisation](#) (MMO). A partnership agreement will be put in place that build on the extensive current interactions between Cefas and the Marine and Fisheries Agency and other UK

Government Departments. This will enable long-term continuity of services and advisory support as responsibilities move into the MMO.

- The [Fisheries Science Partnership](#) builds relationships between UK fisherman and scientists and involves fishermen in commissioning science to improve knowledge about fish stocks and their management.
- Cefas is the primary delivery partner for the [Marine Environmental Protection Fund](#), a sub set within the UK's Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF). The main aim of the ALSF programme is to promote environmentally friendly aggregate extraction in the marine environment in England or in English waters.
- [InterAct](#) is a unique partnership between Cefas and five other agencies funded by the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) as part of the Public Sector Research Exploitation Fund initiative. The aim is to capture and exploit the synergies and opportunities derived through combining the intellectual property, know-how and R&D services of the partners.
- The [Marine Climate Change Impacts Partnership](#) provides co-ordinated advice about climate change impacts around our coast and in our seas. Cefas provides its Secretariat. As part of the work programme for this partnership, we will also provide Defra with the climate change chapter of the next OSPAR quality status report, and will co-ordinate the various climate-related sections of the second *Charting Progress* report on the status of UK seas.

Alliances

- We signed an alliance declaration to enhance our already strong ties to the University of East Anglia (UEA). This alliance involves greater involvement of Cefas staff in UEA teaching and student supervision, and will help us to mentor the scientists of the future. We also hope and expect that our shared vision for closer working relationships will drive the development of high-quality science that will help to make a real difference to society.

Cefas also works closely with many stakeholders and industry to support SD. Examples include:

- UK marine stakeholders such as WWF UK, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the British Marine Federation, who attended a Cefas-facilitated workshop in November 2008 to develop the UK position on "good environmental status" (GES) to meet the aims of the EU's Marine Strategy Framework Directive for UK waters. The resulting report was used to inform the UK delegates at the EU's GES conference, held in Brest in December 2008.
- The WaveNet network of buoys and platforms at sea (www.cefas.co.uk/wavenet) was established by Cefas scientists and is verified by us. It is used by the Met Office, local authorities and flood managers, consultants and other stakeholders to help to assess flood risk. The network has been expanded to include Scotland and is therefore also used by the Scottish Environmental Protection Agency.
- We have a joint venture with Kiotech International (a biotechnology company) to develop novel feeding attractants to support the worldwide development of sustainable aquaculture. We are also working closely with the following to further develop and commercialise such products:

- Bayer Healthcare (southeast Asia)
 - Skretting (Japan)
 - University of Tokyo (Japan)
 - Kyoritsu Seiyaku Corporation (Japan)
 - Marukyu (Japan)
 - Chinese Academy of Fisheries Research (China)
 - Cartagua (Colombia)
 - Thai Union Feed Mill Company (Thailand)
 - Aquatic Biolabs (Thailand)
- Our fisheries work makes a positive contribution to the [European agreement for fishing quotas](#). Cefas fisheries scientists provide advice to expert groups and advisory committees of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea (ICES), regarding the long-term management of important fish stocks. The objective is fishing at maximum sustainable yields while preventing discards, securing fishermen's livelihoods and meeting the needs of fishing communities. ICES' outputs inform European decision-making about fisheries management. A Norwegian TV [video clip](#), of a vessel discarding fish – either because they are of no market value or because legislation forbids their sale or landing – underlines the importance of our expertise and work in this area.

1.5 Cefas as an employer and member of the community

To embed both the delivery of this plan and other sustainability aspects into our culture, we have agreed upon a ministerial target for sustainability to reflect our continuing emphasis on health, safety and the environment. This target is based on the delivery of key performance indicators for health and safety, an annual health and safety plan, this SDAP, and sustaining ISO 14001 accreditation.

SD is also reflected in our vision and values, the latter of which are described in our Integrated Competence Framework. Our core values are delivering valued results, behaving professionally and with scientific integrity, and valuing people. These are discussed with staff as part of the performance management system, where the relevance to individuals and their roles is highlighted and specific objectives and related competences agreed.

Regarding communication, we recognise the need to better communicate the relationship between SD and our work. Whilst staff are aware of the “environmental” nature of their scientific work, evidence from the staff survey shows that the link to SD is not as clear as it could be.

A staff survey score of 54% (68% response rate) was achieved in February 2008 to the question “Do you understand what SD is and how your work contributes to it?” To further embed SD internally, we started a programme of SD-awareness sessions – delivered to staff at all levels. The success of this programme was demonstrated in our staff survey score of 63% (81% response rate) in February 2009.

Within the community, we support SD initiatives such as:

- the “Science Carousel” – an event that formed part of Science week at a local

primary school in Lowestoft. Eight Cefas scientists covered different elements of our work as part of a day-long exhibition.

- a visit by European school children to our Lowestoft laboratory, supported by the British Council and the North Sea Commission, as part of the conclusion of their two-year study assessing impacts on the North Sea environment.

1.6 Estates and Infrastructure: sustainable operations on the government estate (SOGE)

We recognise that the environment in which we work, and the way in which this environment is managed, should also be fully sustainable. Our environmental policy commits us to reducing the environmental impact of our activities by:

- reducing the use of utilities
- reducing waste
- increasing recycling
- promoting sustainable procurement, travel and biodiversity.

Operationally, our highest priority and greatest long-term sustainability impact is the renewal of our office and laboratory facilities at Lowestoft. New, purpose-built facilities ([the Waveney Campus](#)) will provide [BREEAM excellent](#) facilities for 75% of our total operations. Expected in 2012, these will provide the opportunity for environmentally friendly IT solutions. In addition, we are investing in an electronic document and records management system, e-library and a new Management Information System, all of which will reduce paper use and our environmental footprint, and make our business more efficient.

A “powerPerfactor” system was installed at our Weymouth site in September 2008 and has resulted in a 13% reduction in electrical consumption from September 2008–09, compared with the same period for 2007–08.

We are included within Defra's Sustainable Workplace Management partnership. The development of an overall estate delivery plan (Defra SDAP action) to improve operational sustainability performance (including energy and water efficiency measures and behavioural change initiatives) will take account of the Cefas estate. Interserve, the Sustainable Workplace Management local contractor, will be implementing reviews of waste, water and energy as part of an initial feasibility phase of a three-year investment programme targeted at delivering estate-wide energy efficiency and water-saving initiatives that will deliver a positive impact.

Our environmental policy commits us to maintaining the ISO 14001 environmental management systems (EMS), reducing energy and water consumption, and improving waste management and recycling. The [SOGE targets for government](#) are reflected in our EMS targets and we report on these annually to Defra. Our Annual Report and Accounts also refers to SOGE targets.

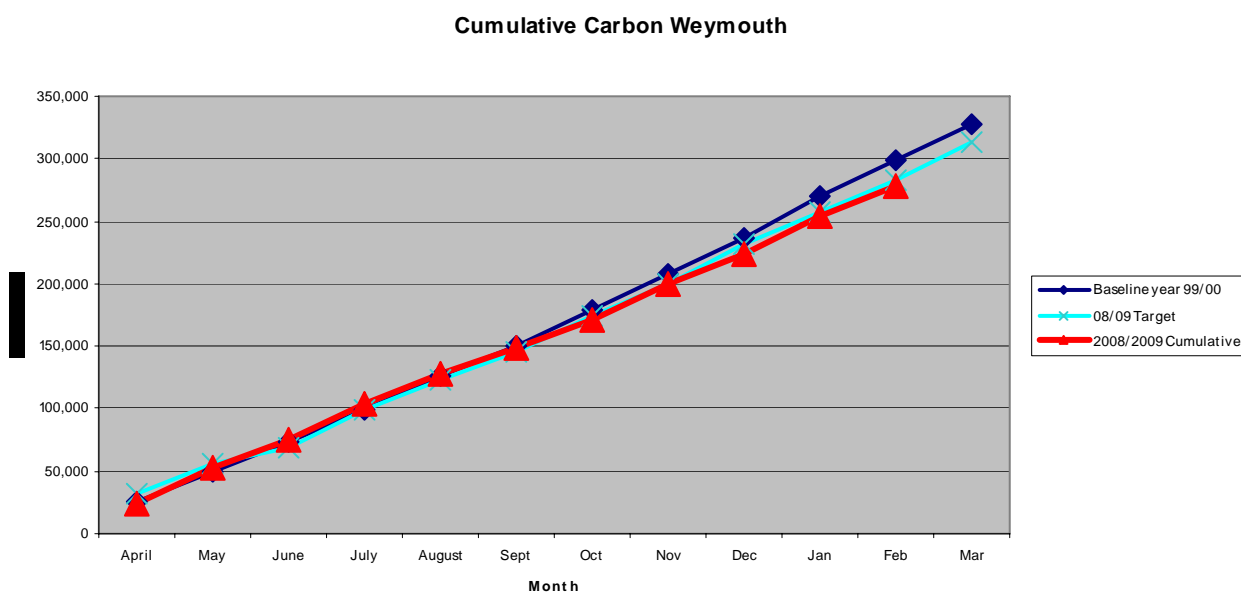


Figure 1: Reduction of carbon emissions at our Weymouth laboratory due to the installation of the “Powerperfector” system, in September 2008

1.7 Sustainable procurement

We carry out our major procurement activity (facilities management, research vessel services, travel, stationary, IT services) through Defra’s Procurement and Contracts division and the Office of Government Commerce’s list of suppliers. For this procurement activity we are assumed to be at the same level of the [Flexible Framework](#) (FFW) as Defra.

Staff within the science divisions undertake procurement activity, with professional support offered from within the Corporate Centre. The Commercial Group Manager is the sustainable procurement champion, and we participate in the sustainable procurement training that Defra provides. To progress sustainable procurement we have, to date, focused on embedding level 1 of the Flexible Framework.

1.8 Information Technology

We continue to contribute to a reduction in the Defra network’s ICT footprint, eg the consolidation of servers, the review of printers and the use of multifunction devices. The Defra network target is to achieve carbon neutrality for ICT in use by 2012. The move to the Waveney Campus provides us with an opportunity to implement further environmentally friendly ICT actions and to support Defra in delivering a co-ordinated and “green” ICT programme and relevant Defra ICT SDAP actions.

2.0 Areas for development

2.1 Building on our second SDAP report

Our second [Sustainable Development Action Plan](#) (SDAP) was published in December 2007 for the period 2007–09. The Sustainable Development Commission’s

(SDC) assessment of the SDAP rated it 20/40.

We have recently published a [progress report](#) and [progress report summary](#) on this SDAP. The percentage of actions completed or on target was 90%, and self-assessment ratings for embedding sustainability were:

Policies: fully integrated

People: on course

Operations: on course

Governance, monitoring and reporting: on course

The overarching objectives of this SDAP are to build on the progress already made, and to:

- include lessons learned from the previous SDAP and the SDC's assessment of the current one and its alignment with Defra's SDAP, as relevant to us
- further embed SD into our induction training, and continue to raise staff awareness of how our work contributes to SD
- include socio-economic aspects into our scientific advice by drawing on evidence provided by our own efforts or through partners and other experts in the field; also, taking into account the views of stakeholders and industry
- clarify governance arrangements for SDAP delivery
- include actions that are SMART: where the effectiveness of the outcome achieved can be measured; and where the potential impact of the outcome for the UK's SD priorities has been assessed as "good" or "outstanding". Each action is linked to a UK shared priority.
- achieve successful delivery of SWM contract at Cefas (including the delivery of SOGE targets). We work with Defra to support its own achievement of its SDAP actions in this area.
- address SD externally, through volunteering and engaging with the community to promote training opportunities and knowledge within our competences.

2.2 Governance and accountability

This SDAP is a living document and will be reviewed and updated as necessary. The key roles for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of this plan are:

- **Chief Executive:** has overall responsibility for SD and the delivery of the SDAP. As Accounting Officer, he chairs the Cefas Management Board (CMB), which approves the SDAP plus the progress and final reports of its implementation.
- **Finance and Corporate Services Director:** is a member of the Cefas management board, has ownership of the plan at CMB level and is responsible for championing the plan, including the delivery of interim progress and final reports.
- **Divisional Directors (Senior Management Team):** are responsible for applying management systems and frameworks. They/the team have responsibility for SDAP actions and for reporting progress towards those actions to the Health, Safety, Environment and Quality (HSEQ) team.
- **HSEQ team:** are accountable for the management systems and frameworks that support delivery of the CMB's strategy/policy. Their responsibilities also include

drafting the SDAP and progress/final reports

An interim progress report will be provided in September 2010, and a final report at the end of life of this SDAP. Both will be in line with the SDC's reporting guidance. In addition, quarterly progress reports are provided to the CMB and the Senior Management Team.

We will communicate this SDAP to staff via divisional management arrangements. The SDAP is also available on our external website to ensure that stakeholders can access and review the plan.

3.0 The action plan

The Senior Management Team has developed the following actions in relation to priority areas for policy, business processes and infrastructure. Actions at the corporate level are intended to progress the whole organisation in key areas; those at divisional level should be linked to specific advice, evidence and support work, which is considered to be a priority.

Key to priorities:

SCP: sustainable consumption and production

CCE: climate change and energy

NRP: natural resource protection and environmental enhancement

CSC: creating sustainable communities and a fairer world

No.	Specific actions	Measurement	Outcome	Target date	Owner	Priority
1	Create narrated presentation on SD for staff. Request at divisional level for staff to listen to presentation and update training matrix on completion.	Training matrix information; staff survey question (and score) on SD	Strengthen employee engagement in SD. To engage 75% of staff on SD issues so they are aware of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how their work contributes to SD • the shared priorities and the five guiding principles • Cefas SDAP 	March 2011	Corporate: HSEQ team	CCE SCP NRP CSC
2i	Operationally, for SOGE targets: Request and support the SWM contractor (Interserve) in implementing the “bin the bin” initiative at both main labs. Support Interserve audit of constituents of laboratory waste and implementation of recommendations (links specifically to Defra’s SDAP)	Weight of waste arisings and amount recycled	Increase recycling rates year on year to contribute to SOGE target on recycling and waste reduction	March 2010 and 2011	Corporate: Finance and Corporate Services Director	SCP
2ii	Replace boiler system at Weymouth laboratory to reduce energy consumption and contribute to EMS target on carbon emissions	Carbon emissions at Weymouth site pre- and post-boiler replacement	Reduction in energy consumption to contribute to SOGE target carbon emissions from buildings	December 2010		

No.	Specific actions	Measurement	Outcome	Target date	Owner	Priority
3	Benchmark exercise for Work Positive . Issue risk assessment questionnaire and interpret results. Implement action plan for continuous improvement against the Health and Safety Executive's Management standards for work-related stress	Report on benchmark exercise; action plan produced and implemented	To identify and reduce the potential causes of stress for staff	Project timeline; Action Plan timescales; March 2010 and 2011	Corporate: Finance and Corporate Services Director	SCP
4i	Sustainable procurement training programme for key procurement staff. Review and communicate sustainable procurement policy.	Assess performance against the Flexible Framework*	Achieve performance level 2 for all themes on the FFW and level 3 in one theme; achieve level 3 of the FFW for one spend review priority category. Transition from conventional procurement to low-carbon, resource-efficient, innovative, sustainable procurement	March 2011	Corporate: Finance and Corporate Services Director	SCP
4ii	Pilot active supplier engagement in one priority spend category for procurement development (following spend analysis), eg travel. Introduce simple measures to identify and capture progress and results/consequences of pilot for further roll out					
5	Capture existing activity and implement clearer volunteering guidelines to support a broader programme of community engagement. Implement programme to timescales.	Progress against programme	Increase volunteering activity	December 2010	Corporate: HR Director	SCP
6	Develop evidence base on the impacts of inshore fishing in England by measuring the economic and environmental impact of commercial fishing vessels, targeting quota species in inshore waters.	Report on economic and environmental impact of commercial fishing vessels	Advice, evidence and support to Defra to enable it to deliver a strategy to secure long-term sustainability of the commercial fishing vessel fleet	March 2010	Divisional: Applied Fishery Science and Technology Team	NRP

* Sustainable Procurement Task Force's Flexible Framework

No.	Specific actions	Measurement	Outcome	Target date	Owner	Priority
7	Aquaculture production businesses (APBs) visited by timescales set by legislation, with response to stakeholders in accordance with the FHI charter	Visits to timescales; compliance with FHI charter; number of disease outbreaks and speed with which controlled	Effective management of disease risks for APBs in England and Wales, to protect natural stocks of fish and shellfish from the introduction/spread of notifiable diseases and to control the keeping of non-native fish species, further protecting the natural environment	March 2011	Divisional: Aquatic Health and Hygiene Director	NRP
8	Proposed new: Revise the existing "Guidelines for the conduct of benthic studies at aggregate dredging sites" (DTLR, 2002) to provide detailed guidance on environmental monitoring and reporting at these sites to facilitate consistency of approaches among consultants employed by the aggregate industry	Revised guidelines and feedback from users	Early detection or the prevention of any unacceptable environmental impacts at aggregate dredging sites	March 2011	Divisional: Environment and Ecosystems Director	NRP
9	To establish a viable body of expertise in socio-economics at Cefas: to assess scope for incorporating social and economic factors into routine advice, and to consider the options for furthering this aim using seedcorn funding or other mechanisms	Mechanism for creating/ maintaining viable body of expertise in socio-economics achieved	Inclusion of socio-economics expertise into routine advice, evidence and support for/to Defra.	March 2011	Divisional: Environment and Ecosystems Director	NRP
10	Investigate potential areas for carbon reduction, including implementation of new research vessel operating conditions (eg, drop- keel use, engine-use protocol) and the procurement/maintenance regime, eg hull painting	Target set to reduce carbon emissions from the vessel. Monitor carbon emissions by measuring marine diesel consumption	Reduction in energy consumption for the RV, whilst maintaining customer survey requirements	March 2011 and March 2012	Divisional: Monitoring and Programme Management Director	CCE

Annex 1: Cefas and Defra's Strategic Objectives

The following table maps the linkage between the UK's shared priorities and principles, Defra's Strategic Objectives, intermediate outcomes and the work of our science divisions:

AHH: Aquaculture Health and Hygiene

EE: Environment and Ecosystems

Fish: Fisheries

MPM: Monitoring and Programme Management

Key to involvement:

X: some involvement

XX: strong involvement

Government's priority	Government's shared principles	Defra's Strategic Objective	Intermediate outcome	AHH	EE	Fish	MPM
Aligns fully with CCE	Aligns fully with "living within environmental limits"	A society that is adapting to the effects of climate change	Society and ecosystems adapted to climate change	XX	XX	XX	XX
Aligns fully with NRP	Aligns fully with "living within environmental limits"	A healthy, resilient, productive and diverse natural environment	Biodiversity valued, safeguarded and enhanced	X	XX	X	X
Aligns fully with NRP	Aligns fully with "living within environmental limits"		Clean, healthy, safe, productive and biologically diverse oceans and seas	XX	XX	XX	XX
Aligns fully with NRP	Aligns fully with "living within environmental limits"		People enjoy, understand and care for the natural environment	X	X	X	X
Aligns fully with NRP	Aligns fully with "living within environmental limits"		Sustainable water use, aiming to achieve a balance between water quality, environment, supply and demand	X	X	X	

Government's priority	Government's shared principles	Defra's Strategic Objective	Intermediate outcome	AHH	EE	Fish	MPM
Aligns fully with NRP	Aligns fully with "living within environmental limits"		Improved local environmental quality		X	X	
Aligns fully with NRP	Aligns fully with "living within environmental limits"		Sustainable living landscapes with best features preserved		X		X
Aligns fully with SCP	Aligns fully with "achieving a sustainable economy"	Sustainable, low-carbon and resource-efficient patterns of consumption and production	Better products and services, which reduce environmental impact across their lifecycle while boosting prosperity and competitiveness				X
		An economy and a society that are resilient to environmental risk	Risk from flooding and coastal erosion managed sustainably		X		XX
			Protection of the economy, human health and ecosystems from environmental risks and emergencies	XX	XX	XX	XX
			Public health and the economy protected from animal diseases	XX			
		Championing sustainable development	Sustainable development successfully championed across government	X	X	X	X
		A thriving farming and food sector, with an improving net environmental impact	Farming has an improving net environmental impact	X			
			Improved welfare of kept animals	X			
		A sustainable, secure and healthy food supply	Reduced global impact of UK food production and consumption	X		X	
		Strong rural communities	The evidenced needs of rural people and communities are addressed through mainstream public policy and delivery			X	

Government's priority	Government's shared principles	Defra's Strategic Objective	Intermediate outcome	AHH	EE	Fish	MPM
		A respected department delivering efficient and high-quality services and outcomes	Defra shaped to deliver effectively, with resources flexibly deployed and aligned to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skills, capabilities and resources aligned to priorities • delivering effectively through partners • effective and well-evidenced policy development and implementation 	XX	XX	XX	XX
			Defra prepared to deal swiftly and efficiently with emergencies in all its areas of responsibility	XX	XX	X	XX
			Stakeholders, partners and customers have a clear understanding of what the department is seeking to achieve	X	X	X	X

Glossary

ALSF	Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund
CCE	Climate change and energy
CMB	Cefas management board
CSC	Creating sustainable communities and a fairer world
DSOs	Departmental strategic objectives
EMS	Environmental management system
FFW	Flexible framework
FHI	Fish Health Inspectorate
HSEQ	Health, safety, environment and quality
ICT	Information and communication technology
ISO	International Organisation for Standardisation
NGO	Non government organisation
NRP	Natural resource protection and environmental enhancement
OSPAR	The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic
PSAs	Public service agreements
SCP	Sustainable consumption and production
SD	Sustainable development
SDAP	Sustainable development action plan
SDC	Sustainable development commission
SOGE	Sustainable operations on the government estate
SWM	Sustainable workplace management

