

SDC Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) assessment

Organisation: Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Title of SDAP: SDAP 2008-9: Safer Lives, Safer Ships, Cleaner Seas

SDAP Publication date: June 2008
SDC Assessment date: October 2008

Please see “SDAP assessment methodology paper” for background to the assessment process, and for full details of how the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) has assessed, scored and rated this SDAP at the following webpage: <http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/sdap-tracker.html>.

SUMMARY

	Score	Rating
Coverage	3/4	
Strategic planning	4/12	
Actions	4/12	
Ownership, engagement and delivery	3/6	
Monitoring, review and reporting	0/6	
OVERALL	14/40	

ISSUES AND RISKS

There is considerable potential for the MCA to input into the sustainable development agenda given its remit and commitment to ensuring ‘Safer Lives, Safer Ships, [and] Cleaner Seas’. While there are clearly several areas of ongoing work around the sustainable development agenda there is no consistency about how these are discussed through the SDAP, and no alignment between them. One example is MCA’s aim to promote clean and safe seas through environmentally sustainable shipping. It is something of a missed opportunity that the particulars of achieving this aim are not discussed in more detail and that this SDAP has not been used as a tool to assist in the delivery of this work. Furthermore, the MCA should be thinking more broadly about how its activities impact on society and the environment as the SDAP is rather too focused on MCA’s internal operations.

MCA’S RESPONSE

“The Maritime & Coastguard Agency as an executive Agency of the Department for Transport (DfT) is fully committed to implementing the UK Government’s Sustainable Development Strategy across all of our Operational Policies and Activities. The Agency has now published two Sustainable Development Action Plans (SDAP’s) and has successfully implemented many of the targets and goals set out within them. The Agency recognises that the commitments set out within the 2007-8 SDAP concentrate on the Sustainable Operations on the Government Estates (SOGE) targets and that whilst other areas are examined we now need to consider all elements of Sustainable Development and how the Agency contributes to these through its internal and external operations. Looking ahead the Agency is now developing a three year SDAP to be published in 2009 and is engaging with all Key Stakeholders across the organisation to ensure that all of the elements are addressed and documented and that targets are set within each of the key areas. It is envisaged that with this full Stakeholder engagement together with continued support and guidance from both the Sustainable Development Commission and the DfT the new plan will address many of the comments and suggestions made within the report covering its 2008-9 SDAP, in particular it will clearly demonstrate how the Agency makes a positive contribution towards the overall Sustainable Development Strategy and clearly set out its plans to embed all of the principles and priorities of Sustainable Development into everything it does.” (MCA, January 2009).

COVERAGE

	<i>Score</i>	0	1	2
1. Does the SDAP state clearly the period of time that it covers?				X
2. Is it clear how the SDAP relates to the wider departmental family, and is SDAP coverage of the departmental family adequate?			X	

STRATEGIC PLANNING

	<i>Score</i>	0	1	2
3. Does the SDAP set out the organisation's strategy for contributing to the aims, objectives and commitments of the UK Sustainable Development Strategy?		X		
4. Does the SDAP articulate the relevance of the five sustainable development principles to its core business, and set out how they are/will be mainstreamed and inform work?		X		
5. Is it clear how the SDAP will contribute to the organisation's high-level strategic objectives, including any Public Service Agreements (PSAs) and Departmental Strategic Objectives (DSOs)?			X	
6. Does the SDAP have clear objectives, and does it articulate clearly how these objectives were selected and provide a rationale for any gaps e.g. in the coverage of core business areas?			X	
7. Does the SDAP link to other corporate plans or strategies?			X	
8. Does the SDAP include any commitment to work with other organisations or government bodies to deliver joint commitments, actions or initiatives?			X	

ACTIONS

	<i>Score</i>	0	1	2
9. Does the SDAP articulate how the sustainable development principles and priorities are/will be integrated into its policy and decision making, set out specific actions to achieve this, and explain how these actions have been selected?		X		
10. Does the SDAP include explicit actions to improve the sustainability of the organisation's procurement activity (linking to SPAP commitments where relevant), and explain how they have been selected?			X	
11. Does the SDAP contain specific actions which demonstrate how the organisation will drive forward the sustainability of its operations (linking to SOGE commitments where relevant), and explain how they have been selected?			X	

12. Does the SDAP contain actions relating to people, such as actions to engage staff in sustainable development, develop their skills and capability to support delivery of the SDAP, and to improve their general well-being in the work place?		X	
13. Are the actions outcome-focused?	X		
14. Are the actions SMART?		X	

OWNERSHIP, ENGAGEMENT AND DELIVERY

	<i>Score</i>		
	0	1	2
15. Is it clear how the SDAP will be communicated to staff and stakeholders, and how the organisation will ensure they have the capability to put the SDAP's key messages to work?		X	
16. Are the governance arrangements for supporting delivery of the SDAP clearly identified (e.g. boards, working groups), and is it clear who has overall responsibility for its delivery?	X		
17. Has the SDAP been signed off by a Minister, Permanent Secretary or Chief Executive, and has s/he provided a foreword?			X

MONITORING, REVIEW AND REPORTING

	<i>Score</i>		
	0	1	2
18. Does the SDAP present links to the previous SDAP (where relevant) or to the historical context of sustainable development in the organisation (if this is the first SDAP that the organisation has produced)?	X		
19. Are the methods and structures for monitoring and reviewing the SDAP clearly identified (e.g. boards, working groups, stakeholder engagement), and is it clear who the findings will be reported to?	X		
20. Is it clear how the outcomes of internal SDAP monitoring/review will feed back into the SDAP process, including a commitment to update the SDAP within its period of coverage, where required?	X		