

SDC Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) assessment

Organisation: Veterinary Medicines Directorate
Title of SDAP: Sustainable Development Action Plan Nov 2007-Dec 2009

SDAP Publication date: October 2007
SDC Assessment date: September 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	Yellow
Strategic planning	4/12	Red
Actions	2/12	Red
Ownership, engagement and delivery	4/6	Yellow
Monitoring, review and reporting	1/6	Red
OVERALL	14/40	Red

ISSUES AND RISKS

It is clear that VMD is making efforts to engage staff in the SDAP process by giving them the opportunity to comment on the SDAP each year; an excellent step in ensuring staff can provide input to the process. A vital area to review for future SDAPs is the actions that VMD has in place to deliver sustainable development within the organisation. A more comprehensive set of SMART actions which clearly set out VMD's contribution to sustainable development should ensure this delivery is achieved successfully; particularly with regard to the SMART actions that VMD will undertake to embed sustainability into its regulatory activity and policy development.

VMD'S RESPONSE

"The VMD welcomes the comments from the SDC and the help it gave to the VMD in preparing the plan in October 2007. It looks forward to working with the SDC on the next SDAP in 2009 and taking forward the lessons from this review. The VMD has learned a great deal since publication of the plan in November 2007, about the opportunities and constraints inherent in the interaction between the SD agenda and the VMD's work and its infrastructure. It will aim better to express these opportunities and constraints in its next SDAP, with the help of the SDC. The VMD also looks forward to reporting formally on the positive outcomes of many of the actions in the current plan in December 2008." (VMD, November, 2008).

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		