

SDC Sustainable Development Action Plan (SDAP) assessment

Organisation: Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas)
Title of SDAP: Sustainable Development Action Plan 2007-2009

SDAP Publication date: 19th December 2007 (Issue 1.0)
SDC Assessment date: July 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	9/12	
Actions	5/12	
Ownership, engagement and delivery	2/6	
Monitoring, review and reporting	2/6	
OVERALL	21/40	

ISSUES/RISKS

It is clear that Cefas is engaged with the sustainable development agenda and has put considerable efforts into the strategic planning side of its SDAP. However, two concerns were raised through the assessment process:

- Part of Cefas' remit is to promote sustainable management of natural resources, and it does therefore have a responsibility to apply this to its work on fish stocks. While the SDAP did refer to its work on the monitoring of fish stocks, their sustainable management was not discussed within the SDAP
- Cefas' relationship with the FSA could have been outlined more clearly as there is some overlapping work between the two. Collaborative working with FSA is strongly encouraged to ensure policies across government are consistent.

CEFAS' RESPONSE

"Cefas believes the reality of our sustainability performance is stronger than the assessment suggests. This encourages us to improve our presentation. Cefas makes a significant contribution to the sustainable management of UK and international fish stocks in many ways including:

- annual production of Defra's [report on Finfish Stocks and their exploitation](#) and the [Fish Stocks indicator](#)
- support for [Seafish](#), providing information on nine species covered by their [Responsible Sourcing Guides](#)
- expert advice to Ministers in EU stock and quota negotiations
- as active members and leaders within [ICES](#), to further co-ordinate and promote marine research
- delivery of EU and internationally funded research on the climatic, environmental, social and economic impacts on, and of, fish stocks.

Cefas assists the development of consistent policies across government, for example:

- our FSA work assessing the microbiological quality of shellfish assists Defra's sewerage discharge and shellfish bed location policies
- our Defra sustainable fisheries work underpins FSA's seafood consumption and sourcing policies.

Operationally our highest priority and greatest long-term sustainability impact is the renewal of our office and laboratory facilities at Lowestoft (the Waveney Campus). This will provide [BREEAM excellent](#) facilities for 75% of our total operations (expected in 2011)." (Cefas, September 2008).

COVERAGE

	<i>Score</i>	0	1	2
1. Does the SDAP state clearly the period of time that it covers?			X	
2. It is 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		