



MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

Ministry of Defence

# **Sustainable Development Report and Action Plan 2008 Executive Summary**

## **Defence Vision**

*Defending the United Kingdom and its interests*

*Strengthening international peace and stability*

*A force for good in the world*

## **Sustainable Development Vision**

*To be successful in achieving the Defence Vision **because** we have embedded sustainable development principles into **all** areas of Defence business.*

# Executive Summary

## Foreword

Sustainable development is about the future we want to share with our successors. Government's aim for sustainable development is a strong, healthy, and just society that lives within environmental limits – all of which are consistent with the Defence Vision.

Defence has an extremely important role in progressing sustainable development – we are the third largest landowner in the country, employer of some 280,000 people, a significant consumer of energy (accounting for around 1% of total UK carbon dioxide emissions), and have an acquisition budget of around £18 billion. This makes us a major contributor to meeting the Government's sustainable development targets, which will in turn deliver benefits for Defence. Defence and sustainable development are closely linked. Expanding populations around the world are already placing a strain on scarce resources. Climate change will make this competition more acute, particularly in already vulnerable and underdeveloped parts of the world, which may provide the catalyst for armed conflict and unrest.

The effects of climate change and environmental degradation will also have a direct impact on the ability of our people and equipment to operate in the future. We are working to better understand the future implications of climate change and how we can mitigate the impact on our people and their equipment. Our core task is to produce battle-winning people and equipment which in turn will help safeguard the future. In doing so, we seek to ensure that we act responsibly and sustainably and that we treat our people and the wider community with respect. This is both

right in itself and also makes the most of every pound provided for Defence. By recycling financial savings to the front line, by reducing energy, fuel and water consumed, by reducing waste, by increasing efficiency, by future proofing equipment and by understanding the true value of our natural assets, we are being more sustainable. The business of sustainable development is the business of Defence.

Through achievement of the above we aim to become a national leader in SD by 2012, but we face a real challenge: to embed SD across our entire estate and operations. There are many examples of success and recognised best practice, including in energy reduction and biodiversity. We have won national SD awards for our work in areas such as waste management and estate development programmes in which we take great pride. Progress in some areas has been slower than in others, which reflects the difficulty of embedding sustainable development into the business of, as large and diverse an organisation as MOD, that has a transient military population, many of whom are preparing for, serving on, or returning from operations overseas.

Progress in this report is against our SD Action Plan 2007. We have combined our report and action plan as we think it is easier to consider future actions alongside past performance. This summary gives an overview of our performance in 2007. We are only printing a very limited number of the full document as it is available on our website, [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk). We challenge everyone in Defence to grasp this opportunity and make sustainable development business as usual, both nationally and internationally.

### Secretary of State

Rt Hon John Hutton MP




### Chief of Defence Staff

Air Chief Marshal Sir Jock Stirrup



### Permanent Under Secretary

Sir Bill Jeffrey KCB



# Sustainable Development in MOD



# Priority Areas and Progress

This summary demonstrates what we have achieved in each SD area and our 2008 priority areas. For full details of progress, see main section of report available at [www.mod.uk](http://www.mod.uk).<sup>1</sup>

## 1. Sustainable Consumption and Production

2008 Priority Areas	High Level Objective
PROCUREMENT	Become a national leader in sustainable procurement by 2009
WASTE	Become a zero waste to landfill organisation by 2020

### Summary of progress in this area:

- ◆ MOD has a Sustainable Procurement Programme and a Sustainable Procurement Champion
- ◆ The Investment Approvals Board requires SD to have been considered in all major projects
- ◆ A voluntary Sustainable Procurement Charter has been drawn up in conjunction with sectors of Industry
- ◆ The Sustainable Procurement Programme is being extended from commodity and estate procurement to cover all areas of Defence procurement
- ◆ As part of the work on engaging with suppliers, MOD held an SD industry day with the Defence Manufacturers Association
- ◆ MOD has met the first target in the Sustainable Procurement Task Force Flexible Framework – being at Level 1 in all 5 themes by April 2007, and in March 2008 we were at Level 2 in People and Engaging Suppliers
- ◆ Recycled and reused 34% of 278,000 tonnes of waste against a UK Government target of 40% by 2010
- ◆ Waste system developed for the Future Aircraft Carrier that reduces the volume of waste by 80-90%
- ◆ MOD St Athan awarded two national Awards for an initiative which increased recycling to over 70%
- ◆ 100% of new build and 78% of refurbishment projects met the SD target rating of “Excellent” in 2007/08, compared to 50% in 2006/07
- ◆ The Allenby-Connaught Private Finance Initiative project on Salisbury Plain won Building Magazine’s Sustainable Development of the Year award and Best Sustainability Initiative for the public sector award for 2007

<sup>1</sup> Explanations of the figures can be found in the relevant sections of the main report.

# Priority Areas and Progress

## 2. Climate Change and Energy

2008 Priority Areas	High Level Objective
CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION	Ensure that the effect of emissions from the Greenhouse Gases that result from Defence activities are continually reduced, such that Defence will eventually not be a significant contributor to the causes of climate change

### Summary of progress in this area:

- ◆ MOD has reduced CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from the MOD Estate by around 10% from the 1999/00 baseline levels (target 12.5% by 2010/11)
- ◆ In 2007/08, we were sourcing around 8% of our energy from renewable energy sources (target 10% by 2010) and 6% from combined heat and power sources (target 15% by 2010)
- ◆ We have made around a 5% reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from administrative road transport, since the 05/06 baseline (target 15% by 2010/11)
- ◆ The average CO<sub>2</sub> emissions from our administrative road transport in 2007/08 were 135g/km compared to 151 g/km in 2006
- ◆ We are on course to meet the target of 130g/km of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions for new administrative cars by 2010/11, having achieved 133g/km
- ◆ 29% of the top 220 non-operational energy consuming sites have completed energy audits
- ◆ We are rolling out smart automated gas and electricity metering on the top 220 energy consuming sites
- ◆ We have offset around 16900 tonnes of carbon dioxide from our head office non-operational flights
- ◆ We helped develop the Government's Green ICT strategy
- ◆ MOD continues to be at the forefront of world research into climate change modelling with the Met Office Hadley Centre
- ◆ We have produced a revised MOD Climate Change Strategy which sets out the process for continually adapting to climate change

### 3. Natural Resource Protection and Environmental Enhancement

2008 Priority Areas	High Level Objective
WATER	Ensure all our sites become more water efficient to comply with Government and MOD targets

#### Summary of progress in this area:

- ◆ Almost 23% reduction in water consumed, due to leakage reduction, against a target of 25% by 2020
- ◆ The water consumption baseline for 04/05 was established at 33.5Mm<sup>3</sup>
- ◆ 11 sites have carried out water audits and water conservation devices are being installed which will save approximately 75,000m<sup>3</sup> in 08/09
- ◆ June 2007 saw the launch of the exemplary new water treatment system at RAF Kinloss to reduce water pollution
- ◆ We are already well on the way to meeting the pan-Government target on biodiversity – around 85% of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI's) in target condition in England against a target of 95% by 2010
- ◆ 85% of establishments in March 2008 with significant biodiversity interest had an Integrated Land/Rural Management Plan
- ◆ Approximately 75% of the UK built Defence Estate has been assessed for land contamination and there is substantial assurance that effective processes and procedures are in place to manage any risks
- ◆ MOD owns over half of Government's historic assets. 89% and 82% of MOD listed buildings and scheduled monuments respectively were in good/fair condition in March 2008, compared to 70% and 73% respectively in March 2007

# Priority Areas and Progress

## 4. Creating Sustainable Communities and a Fairer World

2008 Priority Areas	High Level Objective
<b>SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND GLOBAL STABILITY</b>	<b>Help create the conditions for sustainable development overseas</b>

### Summary of progress in this area:

- ◆ Working with Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) to establish sustainable structures and durable development to help prevent conflict and strengthen international peace and stability
- ◆ With the Department for International Development (DFID) and the FCO we are responsible for the Government's £112 million Conflict Prevention Pool funding, as well as other funding for peacekeeping and stabilisation
- ◆ We are helping to fund the creation of an African Standby Force that integrates military, civilian and police capacity and planning
- ◆ MOD contributes to disaster relief and counter drugs operations across the world
- ◆ MOD has been working closely with a number of Government departments to deliver improvements under the Veterans Strategy
- ◆ Established a 'one stop' point of advice and contact for all support services for veterans
- ◆ Working closer with the Department for Children, Schools and Families to establish the parameters for expanding the reach of the Cadet Forces (over 130,000 young people) and, in so doing, building closer relations with State schools
- ◆ Continued and increasing support to mentoring and outreach schemes, including Outreach, Prince's Trust, and Druidstone
- ◆ Royal Artillery Barracks at Woolwich will be used as the venue for shooting events at 2012 Olympic Games
- ◆ Military medical personnel continue to contribute directly to the care of civilian patients at a number of centres around the country
- ◆ The MOD's Met Office Hadley Centre is a world class standard weather forecasting organisation
- ◆ We assist with the national Search and Rescue service and with mountain rescue and we provide bomb disposal services
- ◆ The Armed Forces received recognition for their work helping communities during the Summer flooding in 2007
- ◆ Many sites operate local community liaison groups and participate in joint community projects. MOD's many conservation groups also involve local communities

## 5. Delivery

2008 Priority Areas	High Level Objective
EMBEDDING SD	Embed SD into MOD leadership, decision-making and working culture
PLANNING FOR DELIVERY AND MEASURING SUCCESS	Ensure that MOD planning and reporting on SD is timely, relevant, comprehensive and of the highest quality

### Summary of progress in this area:

- ◆ Secretary of State’s policy statement on SD and safety has been revised and republished
- ◆ We are embedding SD into MOD business through all levels of the organisation. SD has been embedded into MOD official reporting mechanisms and Service Delivery Agreements, and into the objectives of Permanent Secretaries and Board level staff
- ◆ MOD worked with the Government’s Centre of Expertise in SP to help develop the SD Delivery Plan setting out future trajectories for the Government SD targets
- ◆ The majority of MOD’s main management areas (Top Level Budget areas) and Trading Fund Agencies have developed their own SD Action Plans and have appointed SD Champions at their own management Board level
- ◆ We welcome the UK Youth Parliament’s report on our approach to SD resulting from their visit to two MOD sites
- ◆ In March 2008, we had Environmental Management Systems for 93% of the sites which required one, and covering around 95% of our people

**Safety, Sustainable Development and Continuity Division**

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