

# Delivering PSI

The Government's Implementation Programme



ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE

BIOSECURITY & NON-NATIVE SPECIES

CULTURE & HERITAGE

SCIENCE

GLOBAL/REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



# FOREWORD

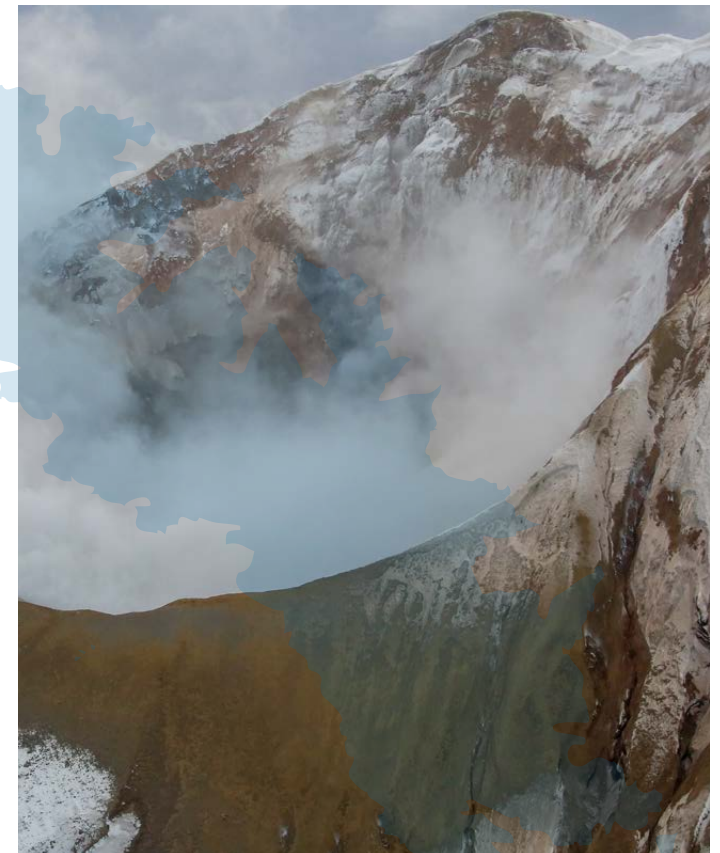
Nigel J Phillips, HM Commissioner, South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands.

**In 2020 we launched Protect, Sustain, Inspire (PSI), which set out a clear vision and a values-driven approach for the management of SGSSI. PSI guides how Government conducts its work, meets its international obligations, and how it will respond to global and regional issues, such as climate change. It set out an ambitious framework under which we remain committed to continuing our work of ensuring that SGSSI remains an “ecosystem in recovery.”**

A key guiding value of PSI is Openness. This document sets out success criteria we will use, and the milestones we should meet to ensure that ambition of PSI is delivered. It will act as the policy document to drive forward our work and provides an unambiguous statement by which we can be assessed.

The threat of climate change is a greater than ever, but the unpredictable world in which we operate has been demonstrated by the Global Pandemic, and more recently the threat to the international order posed by the war in Ukraine as a result of Russian aggression. While we will remain agile to respond to the impacts of these events, we are not immune. However, this is not a reason to delay, and it is important that we are clear in our ambition and the steps to needed to achieve PSI.

This cannot be achieved by Government working alone. We will build on the excellent network of those passionate about SGSSI, its biodiversity, its culture, its heritage, who have contributed so much to conservation and preservation of these islands. Collaboration and partnership is essential, and we welcome your support and partnership to make the words in PSI a reality.



# INTRODUCTION

**Protect, Sustain, Inspire [PSI] provides the framework within which the Government of South Georgia & the South Sandwich Islands will continue to deliver an ecosystem in recovery. The framework sits on a foundation of 4 key values: Environmental Protection, Evidence Based Decision Making, Sustainability and Openness.**

This framework has been based on a collaborative vision of how the Territories should be managed, not only until 2025, but providing guidance for beyond that period.

The Government has recognised the need to set clear goals for the delivery of PSI, and that it should be held accountable for the delivery of those goals. At the end of 2021, the Government consulted on a number of themes, with success criteria and milestones to deliver on its commitments. The result of this process is the following ambitious, but achievable, programme of work.

The Government realises that the delivery of such an ambitious agenda is dependent on the availability of resources for delivery, both financial and other. As the work evolves, these constraints may mean prioritisation amongst the outcomes identified. We will strive to engage partners to enable us to deliver and identify means of increasing revenue as a part of this process, but the final delivery will be cognisant of the resources available to the Government.

Importantly, we recognise that this work can only be achieved by working with partners who are also committed to the vision of PSI. We look forward to working with you all to deliver what PSI set out to achieve.

Derived from PSI, the Government has set out 5 themes and associate success criteria for the delivery of the PSI framework. Each of these areas will have specific milestones associated, for the Government to plan and prioritise its work, but also so that we can be assessed on that progress.



The five themes are:

## ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE

### HEADLINE SUCCESS

By 2030 we can demonstrate that, through effective management and monitoring, the ecosystems of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands are protected and recovering from historic human-exploitation and, where possible, climate change induced impacts are minimised.

## BIOSECURITY AND NON-NATIVE SPECIES

### HEADLINE SUCCESS

Measures are in place to manage, and if practicable – prevent - the introduction of new non-native species and to reduce the number of non-native species already established.

## CULTURE AND HERITAGE

### HEADLINE SUCCESS

The history of, and the future for, SGSSI is made more accessible to the public.

## SCIENCE

### HEADLINE SUCCESS

SGSSI is a place where science and research of global importance take place, that takes advantage of the opportunity afforded by SGSSI's distinctive location. The Government will base its decisions on sound science.

## GLOBAL/REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

### HEADLINE SUCCESS

The role of GSGSSI in delivering its global and regional responsibility is clear, with an increase in the recognition of the work of GSGSSI regionally and globally.



# ENVIRONMENTAL RESILIENCE

## HEADLINE SUCCESS

**By 2030 we can demonstrate that, through effective management and monitoring, the ecosystems of South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands are protected and recovering from historic human-exploitation and, where possible, climate change induced impacts are minimised.**

Based on the outcome of the 2023 independent 5-year review of the Marine Protected Area, we will revisit policies and outcomes to enhance the protection of our waters, including by 2030 the key changes expected as a result of climate change and ecosystem recovery and changes in MPA design to accommodate these.

By end of 2024 we will review and update where necessary the legislative and policy framework for activities on SGSSI in view of the latest international legislation, guidance and standards, including the delivery of an EIA regime that is proportionate and effective in maintaining biodiversity conservation and sustainable activities.

By end of 2028 all commercial fisheries in SGSSI will be independently assessed as sustainable, and operating to ensure resilient stock status, with no adverse effect (considering both direct and indirect impacts) on biodiversity and operating within the relevant international framework.

By 2030 measures are implemented to ensure native biodiversity in SGSSI is maintained, in recovery or restored, or where affected by factors outside SGSSI, measures are in place to mitigate or limit those effects.





# BIOSECURITY AND NON-NATIVE SPECIES

## HEADLINE SUCCESS

**Measures are in place to manage and if practicable, prevent, the introduction of new non-native species and to reduce the number of non-native species already established.**

Annually we will update, where relevant, biosecurity guidance, so that all Vessel owners/operators and visitors will be aware of SGSSI Biosecurity Policies before arrival.

By end 2023 the comprehensive invasive plant monitoring and management programme will be updated and funded with the goal to drive down prevalence of key invasive plant species.

By end 2025 we will set in place measures to enhance the infrastructure for pre-border biosecurity.

By end 2024 we will put in place a new legislative framework for biosecurity, including measures for compliance and enforcement.

By 2028 we will develop and implement procedures to minimise the threat of marine invasive species transmitted by vessels, through a process of pathway analysis, risk assessment and mitigation measures.





# CULTURE AND HERITAGE

## HEADLINE SUCCESS

**The history of, and the future for, SGSSI is made more accessible to the public.**

In 2025 a new policy for the restoration, protection or other works on historic sites will be issued reflecting the PSI position that focusses Grytviken as the main visitor location on heritage matters.

By end of 2028 all remaining oil, which it is possible to safely remove, will be removed from the disused whaling stations and removed from South Georgia.

Working through relevant organisations, we will complete by 2026 an online resource, that provides a

comprehensive record of the Territory's key physical heritage assets and artefacts for wider public dissemination.

We will work with partners, so that by 2025, South Georgia Museum has met the standards of the UK Arts Council Museum Accreditation Scheme.

In 2028 we will have reviewed and updated our policies on how certain categories of heritage are managed, preserved and protected. When making these decisions we will consider the level of long-term liability that might fall to the Government.





# SCIENCE

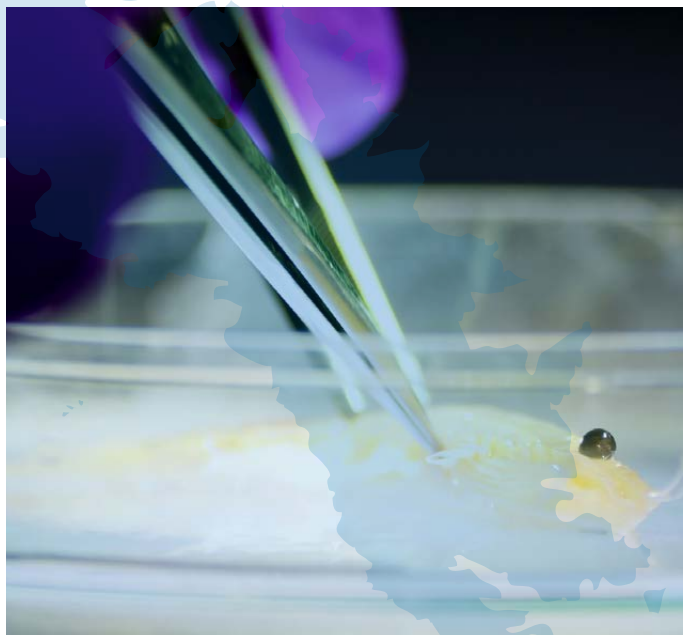
## HEADLINE SUCCESS

**SGSSI is a place where science and research of global importance that takes advantage of the opportunity afforded by SGSSI's distinctive location, and the Government bases its decisions on sound science.**

In 2024, working with stakeholders, we will deliver a science strategy that identifies the science required to deliver this framework and the wider management of the Territory and promotes scientific research of regional and global importance.

By end of 2026 a policy of open access will be the default position for all data arising from research and monitoring funded by the Government, collected by the Government or carried out under permit or licence from the Government, except in specific circumstances.

By end 2023 a report on the effects of climate change in terms of the ecosystems in SGSSI will be completed, including an assessment of potential future changes and approaches.





# GLOBAL/REGIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

## HEADLINE SUCCESS

**The role of GSGSSI in delivering its global and regional responsibility is clear, with an increase in the recognition of the work of GSGSSI regionally and globally.**

By end of 2023 a new National Biodiversity Action Plan will be produced, clearly outlining how SGSSI will take forward aspects of the new Global Biodiversity framework, agreed under the CBD.

In 2024 we will assess what other international agreements we should join.

From 2024, all vessels that operate within the SGSSI Maritime Zone must apply standards equivalent to ILO188 to provide safe, ethical living and working conditions for all on board.

By end 2025, we will have the capability to deliver 100% renewable energy for all Government activities at King Edward Point.

In 2025, the Government will consult on a strategy to deliver its contribution to net zero within the quickest practical timeframe.

The Government will cease to use avoidable single-use plastic by 2027.

