

**Questions and Answers for launch of the Stewardship Framework**

**Q1. What is being announced today?**

A1. 18 January 2021 sees the launch of a new document called “Protect Sustain Inspire”. It is much more than just a procedural document for government oversight, it is a statement on how we will approach the future of the territory. Our mission is that South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands will be an exemplar of ‘environmental recovery and resilience through world-leading evidence-based sustainable management’. This will be founded on four guiding values – Environmental Protection, Evidence-based Decision Making, Sustainability and Openness. These values will not only guide the Government in how it assesses current and future activities, but will underpin all activities in the territory and apply to all who work, operate or visit there. The document also considers the priority areas of work over the coming 5 years, setting out some ambitious commitments including to be single-use plastic-free by 2025 and 100% renewable energy use on the landmass of South Georgia.

**Q2. Was this document consulted on?**

A2. Yes. During October and November 2020 the document was publically available on [www.gov.gs](http://www.gov.gs) for comments. The consultation saw over 50 respondents submitting responses. We are grateful to everyone who took the time to get involved.

**Q3. What was the outcome of the consultation?**

A3 The Government of SGSSI considered all the comments and suggested amendments carefully and took a decision on whether to update the document in any way to reflect the Government’s position.

The feedback has informed the final version of this new framework. For example, feedback highlighted the importance of ensuring the document reflected our ongoing work to tackle existing invasive plant species on South Georgia, as well as in preventing the arrival of further non-native species in future. There were some areas where there was no consensus opinion, reflecting the diverse views of our stakeholder community. These comments have not simply been dismissed. The team at the Government of SGSSI will pick up matters relating to fisheries and heritage management with the stakeholders involved.

The Government will continue to engage with all our stakeholders as we implement this new framework over the coming years.

**Q4. What is different about this framework from the 2016-2020 strategy?**

A4. In common with many organisations the Government of SGSSI feels the conditions on SGSSI are such that introducing a set of values to provide the lens through which activities will be considered is the right thing to do. For SGSSI these values are environmental protection, evidence-based decision making, sustainability and openness. But why now? In 2020 Sir David Attenborough narrated our new [visitor briefing film](https://www.gov.gs/south-georgia-a-visitors-guide/) sharing widely that SGSSI is an ecosystem in recovery.

**Q5. Where do I find where the vision translates into actions?**

A5. The specific actions the Government of SGSSI will undertake are contained in various documents, such as the National Biodiversity Action Plan, Marine Protected Area Management Plan. Many of these documents exist, some require updating to support the delivery of the vision and some documents will be new, such as a Communications Strategy and a Science strategy. In order to support this work the Government of SGSSI is recruiting to a new Director of Strategy and Policy position.

**Q6. How can I find out about the 2016-2020 strategy and whether the Government of South Georgia & South Sandwich Islands (SGSSI) delivered on their stated objectives?**

A6. Each year the Government of SGSSI publishes an [annual report](https://www.gov.gs/docsarchive/gsgssi/#tab-1) which sets out the key achievements for the previous 12 months. This method of reporting will continue.

**Q7. Where do I get a printed copy?**

A7. We would ask that you consider carefully whether you need to print the full document. The Government of SGSSI has shared today both the full document that can be viewed and searched on-line together with individual pages available to view or print if you have a particular interest in one of the priority areas.