



SUMMARY OF RESPONSES AND ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO THE CONSULTATION ON SPECIALLY PROTECTED AREA REGULATIONS AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The consultation was open to the public via the GSGSSI website from 02/08/2022 to 26/09/2022. Ten responses were received from a range of individuals and organisations including representatives from the tourism industry, scientific community and Government bodies.

A summary of responses to specific questions is outlined below. In addition, there were various suggestions to improve clarity and correct typographic errors.

Do you agree within 6 years is an appropriate interval for review of the management plan?

There was board consensus from respondents that a 6-year interval was appropriate although it was noted that for some elements of monitoring change may be seen over a longer period and so a longer review timeframe may be needed.

Do you agree the scope of the proposed review of the management plan is appropriate?

All respondents agreed.

Do you agree that requiring a permit prior to undertaking the prohibited activities described above will help deliver the conservation objectives of the SPA?

There was broad consensus from respondents that the prohibited activities were appropriate to meet the conservation objectives. It was noted that the list of prohibited activities that would require a permit was wide ranging but appropriate. The difference in impact and therefore restrictions on flight height for manned versus unmanned aircraft was highlighted and this has been addressed in subsequent revisions to the Regulations

Do you agree that scope of exemptions is appropriate?

There was broad consensus that the exemptions were appropriate but several respondents highlighted that this should be restricted to when the exempt groups are acting in an official capacity, rather than undertaking recreation. This has been addressed in subsequent revision of the regulations and it is clear the context of the armed forces the exception relates to official duties

Do you agree the detailed conservation objectives adequately fulfil the overarching conservation objectives of the Wildlife and Protected Areas (Specially Protected Areas) Order 2022?

All respondents agreed with this statement. Suggestions for added clarity on how 'sustainable management' is defined and this has been added to section 7 of the management plan

Do you have and comments or suggestions on the details of the permitting of activities proposed for the TPA?

A range of suggestions were received including clarification of the interface between terrestrial activities and small boat cruising (which are beyond the scope of the Management Plan) and suggestions to link the Management plan to the relevant pages of the GSGSSI website where season specific procedures are posted.

Do you agree that these management aims and supporting activities will deliver the conservation objectives identified for the TPAs?

There was broad consensus that the activities in support of the management aims were appropriate, if ambitious. It was noted that some are broad ranging and may take longer to achieve than the time frame of a since management plan review cycle. The implementation table has been updated to reflect the ongoing, iterative nature of many of the activities with a renewed commitment to review progress within 6-years. It was noted that particular emphasis had been given to pre-boarder biosecurity in the Falklands but this was not necessarily the main hub. This aim has therefore been amended to allow a wider focus on biosecurity infrastructure.

Do you agree that the maximum suggested approach distances for different taxa/life stages are appropriate to avoid disturbance of wildlife?

The difference in the guidance provided by IAATO and by GSGSSI was noted as was the need for more specific reference to the importance of behavioural cues. This section has been removed from the management plan and placed in guidance for permit applicants to allow for more frequent review and response to updated best practice guidelines