

A group of children are running along a sandy beach towards the camera. In the background, there is a large body of water and distant hills under a blue sky with light clouds. The text 'our land, our people and our place in the future' is overlaid on the image in a white, sans-serif font.

our land, our people
and our place
in the future

NORTH UIST ACTION PLAN 2001



Dùthchas
Our Place in the Future

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Glossary

CnES : Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar, Western Isles Council

SNH : Scottish Natural Heritage

SEPA: Scottish Environment Protection Agency

WIE : Western Isles Enterprise

WITB: Western Isles Tourist Board

WIHB: Western Isles Health Board

SAC: Scottish Agricultural College

SERAD: Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department

UHI: University of Highlands & Islands

Introduction

It has been widely acknowledged that the Dùthchas Strategy is a very powerful vehicle through which to organise support and resources for the implementation of the community ideas generated and highlighted through the Dùthchas process. This Action Plan makes a start in documenting how a start will be made on implementing that Strategy. Part of the ongoing process of Strategy implementation is the development of the Action Plan. In this early version, only a start can be made on developing plans for Strategy Objectives and Actions. As work progresses further detail will be developed.

Throughout the implementation we must remember that this Strategy and Action Plan provides a unique way of bringing opportunities to our communities in an accessible way. While we will need to be innovative in securing the necessary funding for project implementation, we should never lose sight of the strong impacts which can also be achieved when relatively small amounts of money are made available for local projects

This Action Plan documents the information available to date on the following:

- Implementation Structure
- Phasing of Actions
- Support Partners
- Relevant initiatives & policies
- Assessing Sustainability
- Funding
- Targets
- Measuring Progress
- Measuring Impacts

1. Implementation Structure

The North Uist Area Advisory Group

This group will oversee and steer the implementation of the Area Strategy and Action Plan. It is intended that this group will become known as the North Uist Partnership, informally joined in recognition that implementation will benefit from an integrated approach with communities and agencies working closely together. The partnership may form a management group and other such sub-groups as they consider appropriate, to ensure effective development and implementation work.

Lead Organisation: Urachadh Uibhist

This constituted community group has been nominated by the Area Advisory Group, to be the fund holder and lead organisation in the North Uist Partnership. Urachadh Uibhist is recognised within the North Uist community as the appropriate body to take on this role.

Responsibilities

North Uist Partnership

- Overall steering group to assist implementation of the North Uist Area Strategy
- Support and add value to the work of members and other organisations in taking forward the strategy projects.
- Support the project worker and ensure effective project management
- Monitoring progress in developing projects and evaluating impact in terms of sustainable development
- Raising funds for the projects
- Build capacity of the partnership and local organisations
- Assist with the annual review process.

Urachadh Uibhist

- Lead Partner and will be represented on any management group which may be formed
- Fund holder for the core costs of implementing the Area
- Provided the partnership raises adequate finance, will undertake to employ the project worker on behalf of the partnership.

Strategy Groups

- Assist specific projects identified as priorities
- Setting targets for these projects, and development of suitable indicators
- Monitoring and assessing sustainability against the above

2. Developing the Action Plan

The Implementation framework and the Phasing have already been agreed upon by the North Uist Area Advisory Group and the Strategy Groups. In Phase 1 more detailed Action Plans will be developed for the Prioritised Objectives. It is important to note that work will also begin on developing plans for implementing Phase 2 & 3 Objectives and Actions.

As work progresses new ideas and therefore, new projects will emerge. The North Uist Area Advisory Group, Strategy Groups and Urachadh Uibhist staff will incorporate these into the Action Plan in accordance with the sustainability principles which have underpinned the work to date. Links will also be made with the Task Groups already active in the communities and other relevant community groups so that the benefits of a strategic approach can be maximised. In the course of implementation these crucial links will be developed.

Projected Phasing

Figure 1 illustrates the Projected Implementation Phases.

Figure 1 Projected Implementation Phases



3. Into Action: Phase 1

This section details Prioritised Strategy Objectives and Actions by Strategy Group. For each Action the following is identified:

First Step

The first jobs which need to be done in order to implement the Action. In some cases we need to do more work in identifying exactly what we need to do in order to implement each Action.

Support Partners

These are groups, agencies and organisations which we hope will remain involved or become involved in order to help make progress and maintain networks. It is important to note that this category includes two different types of partners. One is agencies already involved in the Dùthchas Project as Partners or members of the North Uist Area Advisory Group. The other category includes groups and organisations working locally or nationally on relevant issues. Early in Phase 1, approaches will have to be made to these newly identified organisations in order to secure their help and in order to ensure that our implementation is complementary to the efforts of these groups. New arrangements will have to be made with agencies which were Dùthchas Partners to maintain continuity in North Uist

Relevant Initiatives

Since this is a strategic approach, useful links to other strategies, initiatives and policies need to be identified and maintained

Help Offered to Date

Advice and expertise offered by Partners with an interest in particular Objectives or Actions. This information does not exist in detail for every Objective and Action. Other help and strategic alliances will be created as work progresses. The information available at present is listed at the end of each Strategy Group section.

Renewable Energy

Group Vision:

“ To use proven and experimental renewable energy technology to the advantage of North Uist and make the island more energy efficient in the future without damaging the environment.”

Objective 1: To identify possible uses for renewable energy in North Uist at present and for the future which would not damage the environment			
Action	First Step	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
Carry out a feasibility study to identify and investigate the most viable options for North Uist (including the development of bio-oils)	Draft a research brief, incorporating views of key players.	CnES, SNH, SEPA	Refer to Appendix
Undertake research and development with a view to building a wave generator which would produce power for local industries (e.g. for drying seaweed)	Investigate existing examples, contact relevant higher education establishments.	CnES, SNH, SEPA	Refer to Appendix
Develop a small scale pilot project to demonstrate the potential uses of renewable energy technologies (e.g. solar or photo voltaic panels for under-soil heating in horticulture, water turbines on causeways, etc)	Photo voltaic panels purchased during Dùthchas project to be used / piloted in marine centre project headed by Comann na Mara.	CnES, SNH, SEPA	Refer to Appendix
Objective 2: To promote energy efficiency on North Uist			
Action	First Step	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
Carry out research into options and support for improving energy efficiency in North Uist	Consult key partners and draw up an action plan.	CnES, SNH, SEPA, Scottish Homes	Refer to Appendix
Use the media to raise awareness and provide information and advice on achieving home insulation	Collate information and include press releases/ local radio coverage in above action plan.	CnES, Scottish Homes	Refer to Appendix
Lobby for building warrants to be tied into energy efficiency and for building regulations to better reflect energy efficiency	Contact CnES	CnES, Scottish Homes	Refer to Appendix
Investigate and introduce electricity use monitors for use in homes and commercial premises	Contact Scottish Hydro Electric	CnES	Refer to Appendix

Offers of Support to Date:

SNH – Keen to advise on development of the design and locational matters.

Scottish Homes – is currently in consultation with CnES regarding housing design. Likely to fund design development. On-going staff support offered.

Sustainable Use of Marine Resources

Group Vision:

“ To establish locally managed, sustainable, long-term, diverse fisheries and aquaculture sectors of an appropriate scale to nurture and benefit from the quality marine environment.”

Objective 1: To create a marine resource and development centre which will benefit marine producers as well as the wider community			
Action	First Step	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
Assist in the development of the current local Marine Centre proposals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A building which would include a resource library, interpretation and display areas with tanks • Marketing information and information to support fisheries management • Environmental assessments for fish farms • To research the facts/info that fishermen need 	Liaise with Comman na Mara and help identify funding opportunities	SNH, CnES, WIE	Refer to Appendix
To investigate local inshore fisheries management	Contact WIFA	CnES, SNH	Refer to Appendix
Objective 2: To develop local facilities for the marine industry			
Action	First Step	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
To investigate local needs and attitudes with regard to local repair and maintenance facilities for boats under 12 metres	Contact WIFA and draft an action plan	CnES	Refer to Appendix
Objective 3: To diversify marketing strategies			
Action	First Step	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
Pilot project in local seafood marketing at Kallin Pier, with outreach to local markets and hotels <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link with the local produce group • Co-ordinate marketing attempts • Investigate marketing by a species by species basis • Encourage adding value to produce locally • Vacuum packing/canning to ensure all year round market • To learn from other places (e.g. Shetland & Orkney) • Food fair 	Fresh seafood stall set up at Kallin Pier during summer 2000. Identify funding to continue this in 2001. Investigate other similar examples.	CnES, WIE, WITB, WIHB	Refer to Appendix

Offers of Support to Date:

SNH – support/advice. WIE – Possible funding if within agency criteria.

Marketing of Local Produce

Group Vision

“ To produce healthy, good quality agricultural and horticultural produce, using environmentally friendly techniques, thereby providing local training and marketing opportunities, and minimising the problems of distance from markets”

Objective 1: To encourage people to grow a wide range of horticultural produce			
Action	First Step	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
Education of growers (ideally local training)	Contact training providers	WIE, SAC, CnES	Refer to Appendix
Encourage producers to target local markets	Contact market, hotels	WIE	Refer to Appendix
Learn from experiences elsewhere and from each other	Investigate similar examples		Refer to Appendix
Objective 2 To encourage organics and environmentally friendly techniques			
Action	First Step	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
More education and training about organics (how to become) through Colaisde Bheinn na Faoghla or Scottish Agricultural College	Contact training providers	UHI, SERAD,SAC	Refer to Appendix
Objective 3: To investigate and pursue a locally based licensed slaughterhouse with full processing and packaging facilities (either as present set-up or as a limited company)			
Action	First Step	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
Appraisal / assessment on slaughter house and processing and packaging facility	Contact CnES	CnES	Refer to Appendix
Objective 4: To research and set up specific mechanisms to sell into defined markets for all local produce			
Action	First Step	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
Initiative to encourage people to eat Uist produce	Investigate similar examples	WITB, WIE, WIHB	Refer to Appendix
Use the Urachadh Uibhist facilities to develop quality food products	Contact Urachadh Uibhist		
Develop a box system idea and identify customers	Investigate similar example (Skye)	WIE	Refer to Appendix
Appoint a co-ordinator who will market the produce for the producers	Investigate funding opportunities		

Offers of Support to Date:

WIE – ongoing involvement with many of the above objectives. Possible funding if within agency criteria.

Tourism using our Unique Features

Group Vision:

“ To attract visitors to come to North Uist and share our way of life, creating a memorable cultural experience, while protecting our inheritance.”

Over-riding Objective: “To increase the number of visitors closer to the capacity of the North Uist area, to lengthen the stay of visitors and to lengthen the tourist season.”

Objective 1: To better protect, enhance and increase understanding of all of our unique features in an appropriate and sustainable manner, in light of our over-riding objective			
Action	First Step	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
Show tourists something of our world the way it is today (e.g. Crofting, fishing, fishfarming) as well as interpreting archaeology, history and the natural environment	Consult key partners and draw up an action plan	WITB, SNH, CnES	Refer to Appendix
Bring history and the arts together – e.g. Blàr Chàrinis play or legend trail	Gaelic play in rehearsal, Legend trail Cd Rom in production	SAC, CnES, WIE, WITB	Refer to Appendix
Develop new and package existing activities for people to do	Consult existing providers	WITB, CnES, WIHB	Refer to Appendix
Objective 2: To know the customer market and target accordingly using locally based packages, in light of our over-riding objective			
Action	First Step	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
Support partnerships with Caledonian MacBrayne, British Airways and the Scottish Tourist Board	Make representations to transport partnership	CnES, WITB	Refer to Appendix
Support target marketing	Consult key partners	WIE, WITB, CnES	Refer to Appendix
Aim local marketing efforts to the top end of the package holiday market	Consult key partners	STB, WITB, WIE	Refer to Appendix
Develop a distinctive identity for North Uist which can be marketed	North Uist leaflet in production	WITB	Refer to Appendix
Build linked web pages which highlight local attractions and activities	Consult key partner	WITB	Refer to Appendix

Offers of Support to Date:

WIE – generally supportive of the objectives above. WIE, WITB and CnES work in partnership to develop and strengthen tourism industry.

4. Future Action: Phase 2 & 3

The information in this section is again listed by Strategy Group. First the Actions already developed and prioritised by the Strategy Groups for Phase 2 & 3 implementation are listed under the relevant Objective. Some Strategy Groups have also developed a number of other Objectives for which there are not yet any identified Actions. These are listed next, again by Strategy Group.

During Phase 1, Actions, Action Plans and First Steps will be developed for the Objectives and Actions detailed below. Some of these Actions may also be embarked upon during Phase 1, since they are linked to the Objectives and Actions prioritised for Phase 1.

Renewable Energy

Actions

Objective 1: To identify possible uses for renewable energy in North Uist at present and for the future which would not damage the environment		
Action	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
Involve conservation bodies in identifying possible sites	SNH	Refer to Appendix
Undertake background research - internet search / contact universities & power companies, etc		

Objectives

Objective	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
To investigate methods of taking the projects forward	SNH, CnES	Refer to Appendix
To lobby the Government for support	SNH, CnES	
To investigate funding opportunities	CnES	
To look at renewables as a possible tourist attraction	SNH, WITB	
To overcome grid infrastructure restraints		
To gain technological expertise		

Sustainable Use of Marine Resources

Actions

Objective 2: To develop local facilities for the marine industry		
Action	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
Investigate boat yards within Public Sector categories	CnES	
Promote economic and safety case for a local maintenance facility	CnES	
Ensure that skills and work is made available to local workforce	WIE	

Objectives

Objective	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
Diversification in aquaculture sector – new species and better use of existing species (monkfish, halibut, sea urchins, mussels, etc)	SNH, CnES	Refer to Appendix
Investigate new market opportunities in order to restart the seaweed industry – drying and processing in North Uist	CnES	
Stress concerns regarding oil exploration versus retaining quality marine environment	SNH	
Investigate restocking some areas		

Marketing of Local Produce

Actions

Objective 1: To encourage people to grow a wide range of horticultural produce		
Action	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
Investigate suppliers of quality varieties suitable for growing in Uist	SERAD, SAC	
Objective 2 To encourage organics and environmentally friendly techniques		
Action	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
Encourage crofters to become organic (registered)	SNH, CnES	Refer to Appendix
Encourage more people to produce their own winter feed	SNH	
Encourage machinery rings	SNH	
Increase the use of seaweed instead of artificial fertiliser	SNH	
Control deer, geese, rabbit numbers and reduce overgrazing/crop problems	SNH	
Reduce sheep overgrazing	SERAD	
Encourage an increase in cattle numbers	SNH, SERAD	
Objective 3: To investigate and pursue a locally based licensed slaughterhouse with full processing and packaging facilities (either as present set-up or as a limited company)		
Action	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
Find funding for feasibility study	CnES	Refer to Appendix
Investigate the advantages/ disadvantages of establishing a limited company		
Investigate costs of having the present facility licensed	CnES	Refer to Appendix
Encourage crofters to finish stock on the island Investigate pet food canning	SERAD	
Objective 4 To research and set up specific mechanisms to sell into defined markets for all local produce		
Action	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
To have a Uist identity label	CnES, WIE	Refer to Appendix
Establish a local market through shops, hotels and stalls, and encourage people to attend	CnES, WIE	Refer to Appendix
Attend exhibitions and shows on the mainland (e.g. Look into the buying policy of the Co-op regarding local produce Highland Show, Aviemore)	WIE	

Objectives

Objective	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
Improve the quality and health of our cattle and sheep		
Provide local training in crofting and horticultural skills	SAC	
Reduce transportation costs		
Lobby for the Croft Entrant Scheme to be extended to North Uist	SNH, WIE	

Tourism using our Unique Features

Over-riding Objective: “To increase the number of visitors closer to the capacity of the North Uist area, to lengthen the stay of visitors and to lengthen the tourist season.”

Actions

Objective 1: To better protect, enhance and increase understanding of all of our unique features in an appropriate and sustainable manner, in light of our over-riding objective		
Action	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
Develop and train local guides	SNH, WITB	
Create resources for local schools – e.g. packs about local history and archaeology, aimed at children to heighten their awareness of our unique features	SNH	
Present information about our unique features (e.g. archaeology or environment) at different levels to allow everyone to gain from it	SNH	Refer to Appendix

Objectives

Objectives	Support Partners	Relevant initiatives
To promote our local living experience	WITB, SNH	Refer to Appendix
To provide a reason for visitors to come out of their vehicles and explore the whole island	WITB, SNH	Refer to Appendix
To continue to provide a variety of types of accommodation and facilities	WITB, WIE	
Carinish Township Interpretation Cottage project followed through to completion	SNH	Refer to Appendix

5. Assessing Sustainability

The Strategy Groups have already made good use of the Sustainability Checklist below in developing their Demonstration Projects. The value of this checklist is that by using it to shape each step and each project, we are able to 'add value' to what we do. The checklist helps us to think about how to carry out projects in a more sustainable way and hence provides better results for our local communities.

Without this sort of checklist it is too easy to overlook some of the economic, social and environmental impacts which our actions may have. The checklist helps us to maximise positive impacts and reduce or avoid unexpected negative impacts.

Dùthchas Sustainability Checklist

The purpose of this guidance is to help local Dùthchas groups think about the effects that different projects will have on the local economy, community and environment. Using this list should help to decide in which ways projects contribute to the four Sustainability Goals on which Dùthchas is based.

These are:

1. **making the most of natural and cultural resources without damaging them;**
2. **retaining a viable and empowered community;**
3. **reducing problems of remoteness by delivering local needs locally and reducing dependence on external inputs; and,**
4. **avoiding harmful effects on other people, places and future generations.**

In first thinking about a project, it is useful to consider whether it:

- is viable in the long-term
- improves opportunities for the local economy
- uses local resources and provides benefits for the local community
- avoids harm to the environment

Projects can then be compared against the following more detailed criteria:

ECONOMY	Yes/ No	Comments
1. Creating additional spending, wages & profits in local area		
2. Creating / safeguarding local jobs & training opportunities		
3. Linking local production & consumption (recycling local income)		
4. Supporting jobs of suitable quality e.g. skills, longevity, year round, locals/incomers, broadening the local economic base		
5. Using & promoting local resources, & reducing use of imports		
6. Involving affordable long-term maintenance costs		
COMMUNITY		
1. Involving local people in managing & maintaining the project		
2. Using / developing local knowledge & skills		
3. Increasing co-operation & decision-making in the community		
4. Providing benefits for all sectors of the community		
5. Supporting local services, amenities & infrastructure		
6. Strengthening the local cultural heritage		
ENVIRONMENT		
1. Avoiding loss of natural resources		
2. Minimising negative impacts on landscape & wildlife		
3. Promoting energy efficiency & recycling		
4. Raising awareness & enjoyment of the environment		
5. Protecting threatened species		
6. Enhancing wildlife & landscape		

6. Funding

Core Costs

It is recognised that it is essential to identify funding for the employment of a full time Development Worker, to help coordinate and implement the Action Plan.

An application has been submitted to the Scottish Executive Rural Strategic Support Fund for some core costs. This will need to be matched by other funding opportunities.

Possible local and national opportunities identified to date are:

- National Lotteries ‘Community Fund’,
- New Opportunities Fund ‘Green Spaces and Sustainable Communities’
- Highlands and Islands Special Programme (HISP) Sub Priority 4b Community Economic Development
- Scottish Natural Heritage
- Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Project Funds

The North Uist Partnership, Management group and Strategy groups together with the lead organisation, Urachadh Uibhist will assist the employed worker identify relevant funds for projects.

Project funding will obviously depend on the project itself, but it is anticipated that there will be opportunities for funding through Western Isles Enterprise, Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, Scottish Natural Heritage and National Lotteries Funds.

7. Targets

What are Targets for?

When embarking on a demanding and complex project, it helps to set targets. These targets serve to maintain momentum. As we reach each target, we get a welcome sense of achievement and can also track progress to fulfillment of our Objectives. Achievement of each target takes us all a small step nearer to fulfilling our Vision for North Uist. Breaking the work up into ‘bite-sized chunks’ in this way also makes it easier for other people and organisations to help us with particular parts of the job in hand.

How Will Targets Be Developed?

The North Uist Area Advisory Group and Urachadh Uibhist may wish to set overall targets, in discussion with our partners. In addition, each Strategy Group can set targets for their own work. This will help to make each Strategy Groups’ needs clear to Urachadh Uibhist and the North Uist Area Advisory Group.

The Strategy Groups have already done this for their Demonstration Actions.

Each year the Strategy Groups will be setting new targets for their own topic. This is best done in a group meeting so that everyone can be confident that they can carry out their responsibilities in meeting the targets. Often the most practical type of targets are dates: we will do x, y and z by a certain date.

Mapping out the year like this helps everyone involved and helps keep people involved, because it is clear what the Group workload for each year is going to be.

8. Measuring Progress: Strategy Group Work

How Do We Measure Progress?

Indicators are needed for the priority sustainability topics selected by each Strategy Group. Appropriate indicators will help to measure the performance of Strategy Group plans in contributing to sustainable development within the area and measure the sustainability of individual actions making up the Group plans.

Developing Topic Indicators

The development of suitable Topic Indicators is the business of each Strategy Group. When establishing Topic Indicators it is important to keep the following principles in mind:

- Topic Indicators must be based on sound sustainability criteria – the Sustainability Checklist can help
- The Indicators selected should be clear and easy to understand and the results of the measuring and monitoring process should give a clear picture of the progress being made
- The indicators selected should be easily measurable so that it is easy to measure progress towards delivering Area Sustainability Goals and Objectives
- The indicators selected should relate closely to Strategy Group plans
- The process of selecting indicators and undertaking the measuring and monitoring should be done as a Group

9. Measuring Impacts: Area Sustainability

Why Do We Need to Measure Impacts?

In the Strategy we discussed our Sustainability Goals and Objectives and the way in which they helped to define our Sustainability Priorities. In our Action Plan we concentrate on the way in which these Sustainability Goals and Objectives provide a framework for measuring our progress towards a sustainable North Uist.

In order to determine what trends are occurring over time with respect to the sustainability of North Uist, it is necessary to establish our current circumstances - or in other words the “baseline situation”. If we are to make the right decisions about what are the best actions to take in order to improve the sustainability of our area (improve on this baseline), we need reliable information about the state of our communities, our environment, and our economy and the factors which impact on them. The Sustainability Profile for North Uist provides this ‘baseline’ and is a measuring tool. The Profile is based on:

- Our Sustainability Goals which define sustainability and direct our thinking
- Our Sustainability Objectives which describe key challenges we need to tackle to achieve each Goal

How Do We Measure Impacts?

This task requires a set of “Area Status Indicators” or measures, which in practical terms are facts and figures which help to explain and describe the current circumstances, in relation to each Sustainability Objective. Figure 2 below provides details of our current Area Status Indicators and Recommended Additional Indicators associated with each Sustainability Objective in our ‘Profile’. These Status Indicators provide a way of measuring change – and hence a way of measuring our progress towards a

sustainable North Uist. The impacts we achieve through our Actions can be measured in this way. In the long term this will help to guide progress and define direction.

Developing this Measuring ‘Tool’

At the moment we have a large number of Area Status Indicators and an even wider choice provided by the Recommended Additional Indicators. The indicators which we end up using will be carefully chosen so that we are sure that they are relevant to the circumstances in North Uist and to the Actions which we are taking. We will distinguish between indicators which require short or long term monitoring. Another important issue is to choose indicators which can realistically be measured. All of this work will make our ‘measuring Tool’ easier to use.

Who Will Do This Measuring?

This work will be closely linked to the implementation work being done by Urachadh Uibhist. The monitoring and measuring may be done on behalf of the North Uist Area Advisory Group by the University of the Highlands and Islands Millenium Institute in collaboration with local agencies. Particular Area Status Indicators might usefully be measured by a variety local agencies which are already collecting suitable information on an ongoing basis. Interested individuals from North Uist who wish to help with this measuring and monitoring will be welcomed and encouraged.

North Uist Profile – Area Sustainability Indicators

Sustainability Objectives	Status Indicators	Additional Recommended
GOAL 1 Making the most of natural and cultural resources without damaging them		
Objective 1 Protecting & enhancing natural resources & promoting their values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Coastal water quality River water quality Air quality % of nationally important habitat types 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Area of native woodland cover Biodiversity Action Plans Number & Species of Breeding Birds
Objective 2 Protecting & enhancing cultural resources & promoting their value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of recorded vs number of scheduled ancient monuments No. of Gaelic Speakers as % population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of interpreted sites and number of sites not yet interpreted
Objective 3 Promoting sustainable & innovative use of natural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of land under forestry management Minerals available Proportion of actively managed crofts vs number of absentee crofters Game populations Fisheries – no suitable measure identified 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of organic crofters Number of woodlands under the UK Woodland Assurance scheme Stocking densities Index of grazing pressure
Objective 4 Promoting sustainable & wise use of cultural resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Availability of venues Use of centres & facilities 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Proportion of historic sites/ monuments actively managed Adaptive re-use of historic buildings
GOAL 2 Retaining a viable and empowered community		
Objective 5 Retaining a balanced and healthy population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Age structure of resident population % change in populations Gender balance in resident population % working age population 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Health indicator Number of Initiatives to encourage ‘Young Returners’
Objective 6: Supporting community empowerment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No. of community organisations Community Action Grants The Crofting Township Development Scheme 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of communities taking part in community planning process Number of Grazing Committees meetings/activities Area of land under community ownership Access to information, skills & expertise Education provision & take-up
Objective 7 Ensuring equal access to employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % unemployment % pupils going onto something other than unemployment % employment levels by category 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dispersal of employment opportunities Availability of childcare
Objective 8 Ensuring equal access to essential services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> % rented v owned homes Number of essential services Bus frequency per sub area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sewerage provisions Power/telecommunications Radio/TV reception Care provision

Sustainability Objectives	Status Indicators	Additional Recommended
GOAL 3 Reducing problems of remoteness by delivering local needs locally and reducing dependence on external inputs		
Objective 9 Improving the local market for goods & services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of local producers supplying locally • Number of local markets/outlets • Number of local transport companies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of boxing schemes • % workers whose place of work is within Pilot Area • No of local direct marketing opportunities
Objective 10 Promoting equal & effective access to goods, services & markets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost of fuel per journey to nearest larger town (Inverness) • Available level of Public Transport beyond the Pilot Area • Number of ferry landings at nearest ferry port • State of local roads 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Degree of integration between public services • Car sharing schemes
Objective 11 Providing an adequate IT resource	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of IT centres 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of users of local IT centres • Number of community websites • Number of business websites • Extent of ISDN access
Objective 12 Reducing reliance on imports & subsidies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of crofters taking up agricultural subsidies
GOAL 4 Avoiding harmful effects on other people, places and future generations		
Objective 13 Supporting wise use of resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of renewable energy projects 	
Objective 14 Promoting waste minimisation & management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quantity of waste by material type • % waste going to each of the waste hierarchy options outlined in the Profile • Distance travelled by waste 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratio of quantity of material minimised to quantity of wastes disposed , by waste type
Objective 15 Supporting 'green' business & community initiatives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of 'green' labelled products/services available 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of fair trade products available • No of 'green' initiatives • No of businesses meeting green/ethical standards • No of UK Woodland Assurance Schemes
Objective 16 Promoting co-operation with other communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No of inter-community meetings • No of inter-community initiatives • No. of Study visits/conferences attended 	

10. Gathering Speed

The contents of our Action Plan will change as progress is made. This current Draft sketches out our plans to date. There are many gaps and more work still to be done. However, a good start has been made due to the great effort and commitment of all those who have played a part. This Draft Action Plan is but another step on the road towards a sustainable North Uist. In the next few years we can look forward to progressing further on that journey. In that time this document will change as our journey progresses.

Appendix 1: Strategy Alignment

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar

Uists and Benbecula Local Plan

Renewable Energy:

Policies Ej1 – Ej13

In particular:

Ej1: There will be a presumption in favour of proposals for the generation of power from renewable energy sources subject to their accordance with policies for the environment also within this Plan and the specific Scottish Executive guidance in NPPG6 “Renewable Energy”, PAN45 “Renewable Energy Technologies” and Circular 26/1994

Ej8: The Comhairle will generally favour renewable energy projects which are promoted and developed by, or on behalf of, local communities/townships.

Ej10: The Comhairle will support and encourage research projects within the Plan area that seek to investigate the potential of the area for the production of renewable energy.

Ej12: The installation of small scale renewable energy production systems to supply individual or small groups of buildings will normally be encouraged subject to compliance with the development control policies of the Plan

In addition

Policy Ha7: The Comhairle will encourage and support the work of TIG in establishing a Home Energy Efficiency Scheme (HEES) which will allow access to grants from the Energy Action Grants Authority (EAGA).

Marine Resources:

Policies Ed1 – Ed15, Ee1 – Ee14

In particular:

Ed2: The Comhairle will encourage the local fishing community/.industry to play an active part in promoting the sustainable use of the aquatic environment and a more devolved approach to resource management (which could include small area management by local groups of fishermen) in line with the findings of the Minch Forum and Minch project.

Ed10: The Comhairle will support and encourage the development of onshore servicing and processing facilities, especially those that add value to the catch, subject to consideration of the development control policies.

Ee1: So far as it is able, the Comhairle will encourage the protection, consolidation and further development of Aquaculture within the coastal waters around the plan area and will seek to ensure satisfactory siting and design, stock density, pollution and disease controls and to ensure the protection of sensitive seascapes and marine environments.....

Ee2 : In order to achieve the objectives of Policy Ee1, a marine fishfarm Framework Plan will be prepared, having regard to Scottish Executive guidance.

Ee7 : The Comhairle will continue to support and participate in studies into the diversification and development potential of the local aquaculture industry.

Marketing of Local Produce:

In particular:

Policy Eb6: The Comhairle will encourage development that will help to add value to local produce where practical

Policy Ec7: The Comhairle supports the retention and enhancement of the Lochmaddy slaughter house.

Policy Ec9: The Comhairle will encourage local initiatives which promote increased local use and sales of produce where applicable.

Tourism Using Our Unique features:

Policies Ef1 – Ef33

In particular:

Ef3 and Ef4 : The Comhairle will participate in and support improvements to tourism marketing / the tourism “product” within the Plan area

Ef5: The Comhairle will urge Caledonian MacBrayne ... to timetable its arrivals and departures, and provide customer services on its ferries, which will promote tourism in the Plan area

Ef6: The Comhairle will encourage British Airways and British regional Airlines.... To price and promote take-up of spare capacity on flights between the Plan area and other parts of the Western Isles and the mainland, to take advantage of the spectacular views of island land and seascapes.

Ef20: The Comhairle will encourage local businesses which help to diversify and expand the range of sea and land recreational activities offered to visitors.

Scottish Natural Heritage

A Natural Perspective: A Corporate Strategy for SNH for the next 10 years.

In particular:

Promoting Sustainable Use: our goal is for renewal resources to be harvested within their carrying capacity, management operations to provide multiple benefits, and natural resources to be used efficiently.

Renewable Energy:

Priority – To use, with partners, innovative approaches to secure the integrated use and management of natural resources

Priority – To encourage energy efficiency and demand reduction programmes so that renewable energy generation is effective in substituting for fossil fuels, rather than merely soaking up increasing demand

Sustainable use of Marine Resources:

Priority – To substantially raise awareness of the diversity and quality of the marine natural heritage of Scotland

Priority – to develop effective mechanisms for management of special areas

Priority – To secure a precautionary approach in the harvesting of fish and fisheries management which does not damage other features of the natural heritage

Tourism Using Our Unique features:

Priority – To help tourism agencies in achieving new opportunities for tourism based on the natural heritage

Priority – to raise the profile of the services provided by the natural heritage

SNH : Response to Strategy Alignment Questionnaire

Renewable Energy:

In principle SNH shares the vision of reducing dependency on external energy supply through a combination of better energy conservation/efficiency and local generation from renewable resources. SNH would be pleased to advise on locational and design factors.

Action 1.4: an obvious action for somewhere like North Uist and SNH supports such initiatives.

Sustainable use of Marine Resources:

SNH shares this vision. There is a need to gain good information.....SNH can provide advice and can assist in the development of interpretative materials and in contributing to the cost of a marine survey and promoting environmentally-friendly inshore fisheries.

Marketing of Local Produce:

SNH is generally supportive of this vision and in particular objective 2.

Tourism Using Our Unique features:

SNH has a particular interest in assisting communities to develop the local benefits arising from natural-heritage based tourism and therefore can share the thrust of this vision and related objectives.

Western Isles Enterprise

Response to Strategy Alignment Questionnaire

Renewable Energy:

The vision statement is one that WIE can share.

The HIE Network has tended not to financially assist renewable energy projects in grid connected areas...as there is an existing means of support ...administered by the Scottish Executive.

Sustainable use of Marine Resources:

The vision statement is one that WIE can share.

Objectives 1 and 2 could develop into commercial projects which, provided there was a realistic business plan and appropriate private investment, could be supported by WIE.

Objective 3, which aims to diversify marketing strategies, is in line with WIE's published aims.

Marketing of Local Produce:

The vision statement is one that WIE can share. We have in fact been actively involved for a number of years in a range of projects that strive to reach these goals.

Tourism Using Our Unique features:

The vision statement is one that WIE can share. The over-riding objective is totally in line with WIE's agreed strategy.

Western Isles Tourist Board

Tourism in the Western Isles Strategic Plan 2001-2005

Tourism Using Our Unique features:

To develop a plan in which new partnership approaches will support the tourism industry to exploit new business potential.

To promote the natural environment and sustainability as core values of the tourism industry in the Western Isles – to promote and develop wildlife tourism and eco-tourism as natural niches for the Western Isles- to promote Gaelic culture and language as cornerstones of the identity of the Western Isles.

To develop a marketing plan for the Western Isles. This will where possible, build on national and area marketing efforts, and will seek to build synergy between agency and industry action at all levels.

To develop an Information Technology plan, in partnership with the tourism industry, that ensures that the Western Isles embraces the Internet and e-commerce as a key to the future of tourism.

To develop a Visitor Service plan which will deliver quality information to the visitor.

To create a Product Development Plan to invest in the tourism support infrastructure of 'things to see and do'. The priority will be to develop the tourism product and thereby increase visitor length of stay and spend.

To encourage transport operators to be involved in all relevant aspects of tourism marketing and visitor servicing

Scottish Tourist Board

Response to Strategy Alignment Questionnaire

Tourism Using Our Unique features:

Western Isles Tourist Board can offer guidance in all actions.

Western Isles Tourist Board and STB would be able to assist with objective 4 actions 4.1 to 4.4, particularly as they relate to target marketing of various segments.

Scottish Homes

Strategy Alignment: Scottish Homes - Regional Plan 1998-2001

Renewable Energy:

Contribute to the sustainability and development of communities to ensure a high quality of life for all. Improve the quality and effectiveness of existing housing – provide advice on energy efficiency measures.

Response to Strategy Alignment Questionnaire

Objective 4, closely relates to Scottish Homes interests as reflected in Scottish Homes Regional Objective 5:

‘To increase housing supply to improve the quality of the built environment and support area sustainability’

Scottish home is currently involved in discussion with Comhairle nan Eilean Siar, aimed at developing design guidance for the Western Isles....Energy efficiency will be an important aspect of this work.

Scottish Home would support objective 4 as a priority.

Scottish Environmental Protection Agency

On consultation SEPA confirmed that the agency would be keen to continue involvement with the local partnership, and retain local links. The role of SEPA would be an advisory one, in terms of advising on regulations and being able to suggest ways of complying with them. Although there are no specific local policies, national policies relating to the North Uist aims and objectives are identified as waste minimisation and a habitat enhancement initiative. There are no funds available from SEPA for projects.

Appendix 2: North Uist Partnership Agreement

The above partnership is being established to act as a focus for joint activity by its members in implementing the sustainable community development strategy prepared by the Dùthchas Project. The strategy spans social, economic, environmental, cultural and heritage development. This informal and voluntary partnership is formed in recognition that implementation will benefit from an integrated approach with communities and agencies working closely together. The partners are listed at the end of this document, and consist of a wide range of community organisations and agencies.

1. The Role of the North Uist Partnership

- To act as an overall steering group to assist the implementation of the North Uist Area Strategy
- To support and add value to the work of members and other organisations in taking forward the strategy projects.
- To support the project worker and ensure effective project management
- To monitor progress in developing projects and evaluate impact in terms of sustainable development
- To assist in raising funds for the projects
- To support and build capacity of the partnership and local organisations
- To assist with the annual review process.

2. The Role of Urachadh Uibhist (U U)

- U U is the Lead Partner and will be represented on any management group which may be formed
- U U will be the fund holder for the core costs (1) of implementing the Area Strategy only; any other request to apply for or hold funds on behalf of the partnership and /or projects will be considered separately by U U directors if and when the need arises
- Provided the partnership raises adequate finance, U U will undertake to employ the project worker on behalf of the partnership for the length of time such finance allows.
- U U will undertake the employer responsibilities and duties as stipulated by existing statutory regulations. Whilst U U will consult the partnership on any employment issues that may arise, U U (as the employer) cannot be bound by partnership decisions which may conflict with statutory requirements.
- All funds relating to this employment will be held and administered by U U.
- U U will open a designated bank account for these funds; the partnership will be required to nominate 2 members, one of whom together with the project worker, will be required to countersign any invoices or other payments due from this account.

(1) *Core costs are defined as:*

Project worker's salary plus employers National Insurance

Rent, insurance, heat, light, cleaning, telephone, post, stationery, printing, travel, training.

3. Working arrangements

The partnership shall form a management group and other such sub-groups as they may consider appropriate, to ensure the effective development and implementation of the work of the partnership.

The management group : shall consist of 9 member representatives (1 of whom shall be U U) and shall be responsible to the overall partnership, reporting to the partnership meetings. This group will be responsible for creating the job description for the project worker, support the project worker and deal with any project work related issues.

Any sub-groups formed will be responsible to, and report back to, the management group. The precise remit for the management group or sub-groups will be as determined by the partnership from time to time.

The partnership, management group and any sub-groups, will use their best efforts to operate by broad consensus; should broad consensus on any issue not be achievable, decisions of the above, will be made by a two thirds majority of those attending the meeting who are eligible to vote. Voting will be based on the principle of one member organisation one vote.

Personnel:

The project worker will be responsible to and report back to the management group.

Frequency of Meetings:

The management group shall meet monthly or as often as deemed necessary to support and oversee the project worker.

The partnership shall meet on at least 2 occasions annually.

Amendments

Any amendment to this agreement may be made by a resolution of the partnership passed by two-thirds of those attending the meeting who are eligible to vote.

North Uist Partners

Comhairle nan Eilean Siar
Scottish Natural Heritage
Western Isles Enterprise
Scottish Environment Protection Agency
Scottish Executive Rural Affairs Department
Western Isles Tourist Board
Scottish Homes
Crofters Union
University Highlands and Islands
Scottish Arts Council
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds
Western Isles Health Board

Urachadh Uibhist
North Uist Community Council
Berneray Community Council
Uist Council of Voluntary Organisations
Uist 2000
Comann Eachdraidh Uibhist a Tuath
Western Isles Fisherman's Association
North Uist Estates
Taigh Chearsabhagh
Lochmaddy Village Hall
Carinish Village Hall
Berneray Village Hall