



Promoting sustainable development

Environmental Assessment of Strategic Plans

Halcrow has extensive experience in conducting strategic environmental assessments and influencing national environmental policies.

Halcrow has a significant and successful track record of working on the following types of strategic assessment;

- Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA);
- Sustainability Appraisal (SA); and
- Health Impact Assessment (HIA)

Our services

We frequently work on projects that combine two or more of these assessment types and wherever possible share resources to maximise efficiency and value for money. We work with a diverse range of competent authorities on a wide variety of project types, from national to local government. Our SEA experience includes;

- Development planning; national development plans and policies, regional spatial and economic strategies, local transport plans and local development plans and masterplans
- Flood risk and coastal defence; flood risk management plans and strategies, shoreline management plans

We add **significant value to clients' needs by complementing our core SEA teams with additional technical specialists**. Drawing on national and international expertise, we provide

strategic advice and assessment in key areas such as:

- landscape characterisation and sensitivity analysis
- air quality assessments
- water resources and strategic flood risk
- strategic biodiversity assessments
- traffic and transportation planning and modelling
- cultural heritage assessments

We have in-house professionals offering specialised graphics, new media, IT and GIS support.

We have significant and extensive experience in public consultation and facilitated dialogue.

We also have extensive experience in assessments of 'lower tier' plans, such as Environmental Impact Assessments ('EIA's). Our knowledge of all different types and levels of assessment allows us to select the most appropriate assessment types and integrate them when necessary.

Our approach

Our distinctive approach to SEA is based on working proactively with our clients to meet their specific needs. Our clients benefit from our experience of the most **up-to-date** application of **environmental assessments across a wide range of sectors**.

Our clients can expect to **build their own SEA capabilities** and demonstrate **cost-effective, robust and auditable compliance** that meets, and **where beneficial exceeds, the statutory SEA requirements**. We work closely with clients to develop an **integrated and tailored approach** to environmental assessment and plan-making.

Delivering value – case studies

■ Jamaica: South Coast Sustainable Development Study

The team of over forty consultants comprised both international and Jamaican specialists: regional planners, environmental scientists, engineers, agricultural and fishery specialists, hydrologists, archaeologists, GIS experts and a legal and institutional team. Work included an extensive programme of terrestrial and marine survey work, including dive surveys of marine habitats and the analysis and modelling of coastal processes. A comprehensive GIS database was developed and applied throughout the project. Twelve technical reports were produced.

■ Georgia: Integrated Coastal Management (ICM)

Technical studies comprised an integrated environmental and socio-economic assessment of the coast, a profile, ranking and analysis of coastal issues, and the development of plans and guidelines for tourism development. The study included significant capacity building and full involvement of local and national stakeholders through a series of workshops. Practical outputs comprised recommendations on new laws and institutions required for ICM, as well as several demonstration projects to demonstrate the practical application of ICM to the Georgian Black Sea coast.

■ Scottish Government

The Scottish Government is one of our key SEA clients. We have successfully delivered SEAs at the highest strategic level, including:

- Proposals for the Scottish Climate Change Bill
- Scottish Soil Framework
- Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture
- Scotland's Offshore Wind Plan

Our work on the Scottish Soil Framework and the Forward Strategy for Scottish Agriculture projects were recognised by both the Scottish Government and Scottish Natural Heritage as examples of best practice in SEA.

■ Sustainability Advice

Halcrow recently contributed to the Scottish Government's guidance on "*Consideration of Climatic Factors within SEA*". We have also produced guidance on SEA of multi-modal transport studies for the UK Government and participated in a study for the European Parliament to develop indicators of Sustainable Development.

■ UK: Local Authority SA/SEAs

We have undertaken a number of Sustainability Appraisals (SAs) of statutory development plan documents that incorporate SEA. We have also

undertaken SEA for local authorities in the following areas;

- Regional Economic Strategies;
- Public Realm Design Guides;
- Tourism Strategies;
- Parks and Playing Field Strategies;
- Minerals and Waste Development Frameworks; and
- Regional and Local Transport Plans (currently six in progress)

■ United Arab Emirates: Khalifa Port SEA/EIA

The development of a new port and industrial zone in Abu Dhabi involved SEA to inform later EIA. A customised Strategic Environmental Framework was developed. Understanding of the baseline conditions for air quality, seawater quality and noise was enhanced using innovative strategic mapping. This led to tailored and practical mitigation and monitoring measures.

■ Vietnam, China & the Philippines: Sustainable Development on the Urban Fringe

Halcrow assembled an international team of experts on the subject of urbanism, including individuals, partner universities and consultancies to produce country reports for China, Vietnam and the Philippines. Halcrow managed the entire project providing the inception report, interim report and final report to the World Bank.

■ Yemen: Aden City Masterplan

A series of studies were undertaken for city planning to 2025. These focused on the economy, population, land uses (including port and airport), land availability, environment, infrastructure, and legal and institutional capacity. A strategic environmental review was undertaken to bring sustainable development principles into the context of the master plan process. We have also undertaken SA/SEA of development masterplans in Barbados, Scotland and England.

■ HalSTAR

By taking into account every known definition of sustainability, HalSTAR ensures the systematic consideration of all possible factors before focusing on those of most significance. HalSTAR is currently being used for the masterplanning of Club Aliga, Hungary and the development of a new capital district in Abu Dhabi.

Contact us

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