

ND NATIONAL INTEGRATED
DS DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY

INTEGRATED POLICIES & STRATEGIES ON ENVIRONMENT

NO	GOALS & OBJECTIVES	POLICIES	STRATEGIES
1.		<p>To guide the use of the natural resources of the BVI for diverse and often conflicting sectoral activities, so that the continued viability of all aspects of use and ecosystems will be secured.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Encourage the use of ecological information in the planning and development of resource oriented projects. b. Establish guidelines for sustainable land-use and soil management, and the necessary framework to implement them. c. Prepare management and protection plans for watershed areas. d. Establish and provide technical/operational standards for the planning and implementation of mining/quarrying, dredging and reclamation activities. e. Develop a system for the comprehensive management of dive sites and moorings. f. Improve the capacity to respond to oil spills and disasters. g. Establish adequate controls and enforcement procedures to prevent contamination and depletion of water resources. h. Institute remedial measures in areas where environmental hazards have occurred. i. Provide advice and technical assistance for the designation of areas as reserves and parks for conservation purposes in line with the National Parks Systems Plan. j. Assess existing and proposed uses of coastal waters to determine their carrying capacity.

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2.		To conduct prior Environmental Impact Assessment of proposed activities that may affect the environment or the use of a natural resource.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Establish Environmental Impact Assessment as a requirement for major development projects. b. Identify, map and assess the potentials and constraints of soil resources and the present extent of soil degradation. c. Establish baseline studies to ascertain water quality at various points in the coastal zone, to include recreational beaches. d. Prepare water use plans to assess the capability of water areas to sustain development activities. e. Identify, map and monitor critical and sensitive habitats to enable project designs to take appropriate steps to minimise damage to and disturbance of breeding, nesting and feeding areas of all species of fauna. f. Implement an inventory/economic evaluation of existing natural resources and develop action plans for the recovery of stressed areas, especially those with tourism potential. g. Survey critical shore-based areas and develop management plans for them.
3.		To encourage harmonious development that will minimise impacts on the land and marine environs.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Maintain an acceptable balance of land use functions, initiate urban renewal plans, and assess carrying capacity through measurement. b. Improve supervision of development sites and increase awareness of best practice. c. Develop programmes to ensure the rational application of fertilisers and pesticides. d. Prepare development plans for the BVI's outlying Islands following assessment of carrying capacity.
4.		To establish routine environmental assessment, adequate standards and appropriate management programmes for vulnerable and unique species and ecosystems while remaining sensitive to the limited stock size of living and non-living exploitable resources.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Protect flora and fauna in danger of extinction as well as reserves of BVI natural resources for scientific, recreational and cultural purposes. b. Strengthen programmes for the identification and study of the natural heritage in fauna and flora, and establish a national inventory of natural resources. c. Monitor pesticide and agro-chemical levels in the environment particularly ground water, bottom sediments and fauna.
5.		To provide an environmentally protective tourism infrastructure in accordance with the rate of economic development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assess carrying capacities of Tourism sites.

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6.		To preserve biological diversity and productivity under the principle of sustainable yield in the use of living natural resources and ecosystems (especially within the aquatic areas related to the fisheries sector).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Conduct an assessment of BVI’s fish stocks. b. Establish conservation measures to protect targeted species from over-exploitation like open and closed seasons, size specifications, catch landing sites, etc. c. Establish conservation regulations for over-exploited reef fish stocks as well as exotic fish species. d. Promote deep-sea fishing to reduce over-fishing in near-shore areas. e. Demarcate new fisheries protected areas and designate some existing dive sites as fisheries protected areas. f. Research, develop, and disseminate new technologies in sustainable agricultural methods.
7.		To maintain environmental sustainability in mining and quarrying areas.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Protect ground-water from pollution, and the arrest deforestation/degradation of mining areas. b. Stipulate procedures for the reclamation and restoration of land and topsoil, and monitor the environmental recovery of such areas. c. Ensure the provision of adequate measures to guarantee safety in and around quarries. d. Minimising the emission of dust and particle matter into the surrounding environment.
8.		To provide an environmentally protective waste management infrastructure that uses standards of waste management and provides sanitary facilities for the disposal of solid waste and sewage in accordance with the rate of economic development.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Institute the issuance of Certificates of Occupancy to dwellings based on proper provision and maintenance of sanitary facilities subject to annual inspection. b. Monitor and control existing point and non-point sources of pollution, sewage and desalination outfalls, and construct sewage treatment facilities with proper outfalls for communities as needed. c. Improve water use technology including safe disposal of wastewater. d. Establish an early warning system for the identification of potential waste disposal hazards particularly on recreational beaches. e. Establish monitoring programmes including periodic surveillance of waste disposal sites and wastewater treatment systems. f. Design ecologically sensitive sewage disposal systems for the different communities. g. Encourage a system of holding tanks in all yachts with a pump-out facility available in each marina complex that would be linked to the central sewage treatment plant.

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9.		To provide more shade areas and landscaping.	a. Develop expertise and resources in landscaping.
10.		To minimise the environmental impacts of development.	a. Improve supervision of building sites and increase awareness of best practice.
11.		To restore and enhance the historic environment for educational and recreational purposes and future generations.	a. Develop a comprehensive registry of sites.
12.		Ensure reclamation is more sustainable and subject to better monitoring and controls.	a. Review and upgrade current procedures for evaluating and monitoring reclamation.
13.		Minimise disturbance to the environment	a. Review financial provisions of current leases.
14.		To remove this incentive to ad hoc reclamation	a. Review basis on which fees are charged.
15.		To ensure residents have unimpeded access to all public land.	a. Ensure access is not restricted when land is developed.
16.		Minimise amount of new road cutting	a. Encourage/require use of shared access roads.
17.		To ensure adequate disposal of hazardous wastes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Improve management of landfills on sister islands. b. Improve collaboration between Agriculture, Conservation and Fisheries and Health. c. Develop Port Health Programme including a comprehensive National Port Health Food Inspection Service. d. Develop a pollution control program e. Contract a qualified agency/company to undertake periodical monitoring for environmental pollution on behalf of the government. f. Enact legislation to support pesticide control board. g. Conduct pesticide availability and use survey.
18.		To ensure adequate sanitary disposal of sewerage in the Territory.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Mandatory connections where sewer network is available. b. Imposition of sewage tax in served areas as an incentive for connections. c. Provision of municipal treatment plants in East End, Long Look, Sea Cows Bay and Cane Garden Bay. d. Enact legislation to ensure the installation of package sewerage, treatment plants in commercial establishments e.g. hotels and marinas.

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19.		Improve the quality of the physical environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop a comprehensive national environmental management strategy. b. Construct an incinerator on Virgin Gorda and examine the feasibility of the barging the garbage from the other islands to the facilities on Virgin Gorda and Tortola. c. Encourage primary treatment of sewage at homes and all hotels, and encourage the linked to the central sewage treatment facility; d. Urgently develop a central sewage treatment facility with a proper out-fall; e. Encourage urgently a system of holding tanks in all yachts with a pump-out facility available in all marina complexes and link these to the central sewage treatment facility f. Develop and implement an on-going system of water quality monitoring with effective deterrents for breaches of the Ordinances. g. Develop a management plan for mosquito and other water borne vectors in the territory; h. Conduct an assessment of the current state of the mooring fields with a view to expanding the fields where feasible. i. Develop a co-ordinated effort between RVIPIF, NPT, C&F, PA and TCPD for the policing and management of the territorial waters.
20.		Enhancement of the quality of the visitor experience.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop a system for the comprehensive management of dive sites and moorings with sites being closed and reopened as necessary and suitably prepared alternative sites being opened to accommodate visitors.
21.		Protection of the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Eliminate illegal sand mining from public and private beaches. c. Elimination of illegal destruction of the mangroves and encourage a system of replanting.
22.		Promotion of things environmental.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop events focused around the environment which are aimed at the marine and terrestrial visitor as well as the local population.

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23.		Product Strategy for Road Town.	a. Clean the drains and have them covered.
24.		Product Strategy for Anegada.	a. Place emphasis in tourism development nature-based experiences. b. Conduct a detailed bio-physical inventory and EIA for the entire island and adjacent marine environment.
25.		Strategies for the Charter Industry.	a. The carrying capacity of the territory for charter boats should be assessed to ensure minimal effects on the environment and the quality of the product.
26.		To establish adequate environmental standards as well as the monitoring and evaluation of changes in the environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Provision of advice and technical assistance for the designation of areas as reserves and parks for conservation purposes in line with the National Parks Systems Plan. b. Institution of the payment of user fees at the various dive sites and snorkel trails. c. Development and initiation of a phased programme of management measures for the enhancement of the aesthetic appeal of the BVI. d. Establishment of an Environmental Education and Resource Center in a protected area for the purpose of educating the public/ tourists and school children on BVI's environment and culture. e. Establishment of adequate controls and enforcement procedures to prevent contamination and depletion of water resources. f. Establishment of base line studies to ascertain water quality at various points in the coastal areas. g. Establishment of an early warning system for the identification of potential waste disposal hazards particularly on recreational beaches and waters. h. Assessment of existing and proposed uses of coastal waters to determine their carrying capacity. i. Control of point and non-point sources of pollution. j. Improved water use technology including safe disposal of waste water. k. Monitoring of sewage / desalination out falls. l. Monitoring/ regulation of the chlorine content of swimming pools that drain into the sea. m. Identification, mapping and monitoring of critical and sensitive habitats to enable project designs to take appropriate steps to minimize damage to and disturbance of breeding, nesting and feeding areas of all species of fauna. n. Implementation of an inventory/ economic evaluation of existing natural resources and development of action plans for the recovery of stressed areas particularly those with tourism potential. o. Monitoring of pesticide and agro-chemical levels in the environment particularly water, bottom sediments and fauna.

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27		<p>To maintain and improve the quality of the unique environmental resource endowment of the BVI and the physical characteristics of its coastal areas.</p> <p>To establish routine environmental assessment and monitoring programmes to highlight vulnerable species and ecosystems bearing in mind the limited stocks of living and non-living exploitable resources.</p> <p>To sustain biological diversity and productivity.</p> <p>To preserve biological diversity and the principle of sustainable yield in the use of living natural resources and ecosystems.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Development of a National Conservation Strategy for the BVI. b. Strengthening programmes for the identification and study of the natural heritage in fauna and flora and for establishing a national inventory of natural resources. c. Protecting flora and fauna in danger of extinction as well as the reserves of natural resources for scientific, recreational and cultural purposes. d. Management of Nesting Bird sites.