

**Agenda item 9 – IALA TECHNICAL ACTIVITIES**

**9.7 EEP**

**9.7.1 Documents submitted for approval**

***9.7.1-5 Draft IALA Guideline 1036 on  
Environmental Management***

Note by the Secretariat

**1 SUMMARY**

Guideline 1036 has been designed as a practical guide to environmental management of an organisation's operations, including environmental regulations, the importance, development and implementation of environmental management tools relevant to AtoN authorities, the identification and assessment of risks, and environmental sustainability and carbon footprint.

**2 ACTION REQUESTED**

The Council is requested to Approve the draft Guideline

# IALA Guideline No. 1036

On

## Environmental Management in Aids to Navigation

(IALA Green Guidelines)

**Edition 2**

**December 2013**

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## Document Revisions

Revisions to the IALA Document are to be noted in the table prior to the issue of a revised document.

Date	Page / Section Revised	Requirement for Revision
December 2013	Entire document	Revised and updated to reflect new information and content extended

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

Document Revisions .....	3
1 Introduction .....	6
2 Scope .....	6
3 Environmental challenges.....	6
3.1 The Commercial Aspects of Environmental Management.....	7
4 References and Legislative Compliance.....	7
4.1 Identification of legislation and standards .....	7
5 Environmental Management.....	8
5.1 Environmental Management Policies .....	8
5.2 Environmental Management Systems.....	9
5.2.1 Components of an EMS.....	9
5.2.2 Environmental Aspects .....	10
5.2.3 Management measures, controls and procedures.....	11
5.2.4 Environmental Risk Assessment Process.....	11
5.2.5 Objectives & targets .....	11
5.2.6 Roles & Responsibilities .....	11
5.2.7 Communication .....	11
5.2.8 Environmental Management Plans.....	12
5.2.9 Monitoring.....	12
5.3 Environmental Performance .....	12
5.3.1 Audits.....	13
5.3.2 Performance Evaluation.....	13
5.3.3 External Reporting .....	13
5.4 Environmental Emergency Response .....	14
5.5 Stakeholder engagement and consultation .....	15
5.5.1 Stakeholder engagement.....	15
5.5.2 Social Responsibility - Traditional and Cultural Heritage .....	15
5.6 Reducing Environmental Impact.....	16
5.6.1 Environmental Sustainability.....	16
5.6.2 Carbon Footprint – Greenhouse Gas Emissions .....	16
5.6.3 Material Life Cycle.....	17
6 Technical considerations .....	17
6.1 Hazardous Substances.....	17
6.2 Mercury .....	18
6.3 Asbestos .....	18
6.4 Lead based paints.....	18
6.5 Batteries .....	19
6.6 Paints .....	20

6.7 Solvents .....	21
6.8 Blast cleaning.....	22
6.9 Fuel	23
6.10 Synthetic buoys and moorings.....	23
6.11 Lamps.....	24
6.12 Noise pollution.....	24
6.13 Light pollution .....	25
6.14 Impact on marine life and habitats.....	25
6.15 Vessel operations in coral habitats .....	26
6.16 Contaminated land .....	26
6.17 Waste Management .....	27
6.18 Erosion Management.....	27
6.19 Habitat Protection / Protection of Flora and Fauna .....	27
6.20 Prevention of Introduction of non-endemic species and diseases.....	28

## 1 INTRODUCTION

Aids to Navigation (AtoN) play a critical role in protecting the environment by preventing maritime disasters that could have potentially catastrophic ecological impact on sensitive marine and terrestrial ecosystems.

However, AtoN equipment and activities themselves have the potential to create significant environmental impact through waste generation, unsustainable energy use, pollution and habitat disturbance. It is essential to minimize these negative impacts so that the benefits of AtoNs are not offset by unintentional negative impacts of their operation on the environment. Minimizing the impacts can be achieved by responsible environmental management and the factoring in of environmental concerns to all levels of AtoN operations; design, installation, management and maintenance.

In order to manage the impact of AtoN activities on the environment, an ethos of environmental protection and natural resources stewardship should be promulgated throughout the organization. Environmental considerations should be made a part of all engineering, planning, and decision-making processes.

## 2 SCOPE

This Guideline has been designed as a practical guide on;

- The role of environmental management in an organization's operations;
- Compliance with the relevant environmental regulations;
- Importance of identifying environmental aspects that an organization can control, as well as those environmental aspects that it can be expected to influence;
- The development and implementation environmental management tools such as Environmental Management Systems (EMS) or Environmental Management Plans (EMP), with a focus on aspects of particular relevance to AtoN authorities and services providers;
- Identifying and assessing any reasonable foreseeable risks associated with hazardous conditions attributable to AtoN operations and prevention or mitigation of such risks;
- Environmental sustainability;
- Identifying and reducing the carbon footprint; and
- Technical considerations.

## 3 ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

Organizations should take into account the fact that protection of the environment is a global concern and that while most impacts are localized, there is potential that the impact can be environmental, social and political.

The increased focus on environmental performance requires AtoN entities to focus on sustainable practices and the identification of ways to reduce its reliance on non-sustainable energy resources, and in turn reduce their overall environmental footprint.

The impact of humans on the environment also extends beyond local, state and even national boundaries and has global repercussions. Some pollution issues are better resolved if a global perspective is adopted and international treaties, conventions, recommendations and protocols often overlap an organization's activities and exert some influence on the level of control which legislation specifies

### **3.1 The Commercial Aspects of Environmental Management**

The impression that increasing the level of environmental controls will increase the cost of doing AtoN work or providing AtoN services is not true. In fact, the result can be just the opposite and engineering solutions, methodologies and procedures that reduce the impact on the environment can actually reduce AtoN costs.

Effective environmental management strategies will allow an organization to focus on more sustainable ways of operating, reduce wastage levels, focus on using sustainable resources and reduce reliance on un-sustainable energy resources, promote a responsible corporate image and in general result in more efficient and cleaner operations. It reinforces an organization's commitment in the eyes of clients, employees and members of the public.

The monetary and non-monetary costs of not pursuing an environmentally responsible approach can be much higher for an organization. These can range from bad publicity, financial liability and increasingly, to the costs of clean up or actual criminal prosecution in the event of environmental incidents or disasters. The general understanding and awareness of these issues has increased dramatically in the recent past, and as a result there is now a strong emphasis on responsible environmental stewardship, especially in marine areas. Local and global communities now have the relevant information at hand to be able to monitor the actions and impacts of authorities or service providers, putting the pressure on those entities to ensure they take their responsibilities seriously.

## **4 REFERENCES AND LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE**

Protection of the environment should be of paramount importance to aids to navigation (AtoN) authorities, service providers and AtoN manufacturers. All organizations should commit themselves to comply with relevant local, national and international laws, regulations, standards and codes of practice in their area of operation. AtoN authorities and service providers should refer to their local legislation for specific compliance requirements to guide their environmental management.

Governments, intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations, major groups, the private sector and civil society, individually or collectively, have a role in environmental governance. Increased global awareness of environmental issues has meant that at the international level, multilateral environmental agreements increasingly play an important role and provide leadership. Regional organizations and bodies provide forums for policy development, environmental management implementation and information on sustainable practices. AtoN authorities and service providers should look to these as a source of information and assistance in their own environmental stewardship and where possible to identify environmental programs that could possibly be run parallel to their own activities.

### **4.1 Identification of legislation and standards**

An organization's activities may be affected by a number of different laws, legislations or governing standards. An organization should identify which of these influence their environmental management and should develop and promulgate an understanding of what is required to comply and the possible consequences of non-compliance.

## 5 ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

Environmental Management could be classified as a system that allows an authority to work consciously, actively and systematically towards reducing environmental impact of its activities and improving its methods of interaction with the environments to minimize or eliminate negative impact on the environment.

In the broader sense, environmental management consists of a series of different, but inter-related systems that when combined, allow effective management of these environmental interactions.

Environmental management, in the broader sense, considers what aspects of an organization's business has the potential to impact on the environment, and how organizations can achieve their environmental obligations and performance goals.

Some key drivers of environmental management include;

- Environmental policies including senior management's commitment to environmental compliance;
- Environmental Management Systems;
- Standards and legislation that dictate the level to which an organization manages its environmental impact;
- Environmental auditing and assessments;
- Monitoring and measurement of environmental performance which identifies compliance issues and cost effective solutions as well as assisting in identifying employee training needs; and
- Environmental reporting.

Any organization will benefit from undertaking an initial review of the environmental aspects and impacts associated with their operations. This can provide a starting point for an organization to identify the level of impact its activities have on the environment, what controls are currently in place and what actual levels of controls or procedures are required.

It is also a valuable tool in identifying ways to increase the sustainability of its operations and where appropriate to assess its carbon footprint and respond accordingly.

The review provides data and information that is crucial in development of policies, systems, guidelines and procedures and planning in general.

### 5.1 Environmental Management Policies

The Environmental Policy verbalizes the organization's commitment to be environmentally responsible. The content of the environmental policy describes the organizations aspirations, evoking the degree of commitment by top management and serving as a beacon to influence the behavior and actions of all members of the organization to high achievement for environmental protection.

Due to increasing complexity and understanding of environmental issues, policies may refer to specific issues, such as sustainability, waste management, habitat protection but basically, the content and direction of the policies should be dictated by the organization.

Policies should create the basis for further development of environmental management plans, systems and any other documentation that is required to guide this aspect of an organization's activity.

A policy should express commitment to the relevant legislation, laws, standards or codes of practice to ensure compliance.

Environmental policies should be communicated to all employees, managers, and stakeholders. All personnel should understand their role in supporting these policies, and should receive proper training in this regard.

In summary, environmental policy should cover some key issues:

- Implementation of policy
- Review – environmental objectives and actions
- Compliance – with all relevant environmental legislation and regulations
- Awareness – promoting environmental awareness and improved performance
- Partnerships and Consultation – with wider community, relevant agencies, land managers
- Communication – educating public and stakeholders

## **5.2 Environmental Management Systems**

An Environmental Management System (EMS) is a tool to integrate environmental aspects in the management of an organization including an effective way of creating and controlling environmental ethos. An Environmental Management Plan (EMP) can also be an effective tool for managing environmental issues with individual projects and activities. Both of these refer to the same concept and could be defined as a set of processes and practices that enable an organization or activity to reduce its environmental impacts and increase its operating efficiency.

These types of management tools must be compliant to the relevant legislation and must be relevant to an organization's level of environmental maturity.

A relevantly structured EMS can help an organization to reduce its negative impacts on the environment and to state and achieve their environmental obligations and performance goals and also ensure that environment management practices address local environmental concerns that impact on an organization's social license to operate.

### **5.2.1 Components of an EMS**

Generally, an EMP/EMS provides a specific outline or policy on environmental management and what it means to an organization, the processes and environmental controls involved, and in some cases, an outline of the monitoring of the impact and effect of an organization's interactions with the environment.

Implementation of an EMS involves an organization taking the following steps:

- Devise a policy that articulates an organization's commitment to uphold due process.
- Adhering to relevant legislative and regulatory processes efficiently and effectively and to ensure that there is a regular review process of effects of changes in legislation, standards and regulations.

- Appoint an environmental manager or management team responsible for coordination of the EMS and also identify the environmental responsibilities of all level of employees within the organization.
- Establish environmental objectives and targets.
- Implement programs to achieve objectives and targets.
- Responsibilities and reporting structure – assign responsibilities to achieve objectives and targets.
- Identification of specific and relevant management, preventative and mitigation measures including procedures and also emergency/contingency plans.
- Identify an organization's environmental impacts, hazards and the required controls through an environmental risk assessment and record details in an Environmental Aspects Register.
- Identification of key environments potentially affected by AtoN sites:
  - o biological environment e.g. threatened ecological communities such as marine species, seabirds in the vicinity of AtoNs
  - o Socio-Economic Environment e.g. fisheries, Marine Parks and Reserves
  - o Social environments – traditional and cultural heritage aspects.
- Consultation and stakeholder engagement activities.
- Undertaking informed intervention action where required.
- Commitment to continually improve the effectiveness and efficiency of environmental management – review and evaluate environmental performance and correct and/or improve environmental policy including objectives and targets, as well as organizational structure, procedures and processes.
- Strategically review the continuing effectiveness of environment management within the organization

**Commitment to compliance** with applicable environmental legislation and regulations is required, along with a commitment to **continual improvement** – for which the EMS provides the framework.

Detailed information on how to implement an organization-wide environmental management system is available through the International Organization for Standardization (ISO), in their ISO 14000 family of standards.

**ISO 14001:2004 is an environmental standard which focuses on the generic requirements for an environmental management system. It provides a useful framework for an organization to follow to develop an effective, high quality EMS and summarizes the advantage an organization can expect from adopting these types of management tools.**

#### 5.2.2 Environmental Aspects

ISO14001 states that an environmental aspect is an 'element of an organization's activities, products or services that can interact with the environment'.

An organization needs to identify those activities and aspects that have actual and potential environmental impacts. An environmental review, or assessment, should be conducted by senior management and staff who are or will be assigned roles in environmentally significant activities. The review can involve drawing information from a

number of different areas such as legislation and policies, performance audits, monitoring and the assessment and management program.

Once environmental aspects are identified, an organization should then prioritize the high risk activities and provide appropriate controls to mitigate any resulting impact.

#### 5.2.3 Management measures, controls and procedures

The identification of environmental aspects will highlight critical areas of environmental management, which should be further addressed depending on the severity of impact. Written controls, procedures, instructions or other documentation outlining the approach to managing those impacts should be provided.

#### 5.2.4 Environmental Risk Assessment Process

Environmental risk management identifies credible environmental hazards, assessing the likelihood of occurrence and severity of the potential ecological and human health consequences, and managing the resulting level of risk.

An established program of cyclic risk reviews can be carried out throughout an organization with significant environmental risks addressed through the EMS.

Risk management process for AtoN sites is a continuous process and an organization should take a consultative approach with environmental managers, decision makers, industry, maintenance contractors and community stakeholders.

Ecological risk assessment involves:

- Problem formulation – establishes the context for the strategic and organizational conduct of the overall assessment
- Hazard identification
- Risk Analysis – likelihood of exposure and ecological effects
- Risk characterization
- Treatment/mitigation measures to reduce risk to acceptable levels
- Monitoring and review

#### 5.2.5 Objectives & targets

An organization's EMS should state quantifiable environmental targets, that can be communicated clearly to the workforce and that can be tracked through regular monitoring. The objectives and targets should reflect an organizations operational and environmental maturity and should be revised and changed as targets are achieved.

#### 5.2.6 Roles & Responsibilities

An EMS should clearly state the roles and responsibilities of all staff relating to the environmental management framework. It should state not only the physical responsibilities, but also the responsibilities in reviewing, providing feedback and also fostering a general attitude of responsible environmental stewardship.

#### 5.2.7 Communication

Communication and feedback from the workforce and from all personnel interacting with the EMS is a critical area and an organization should have in place a framework whereby all levels of employees are encouraged to provide feedback, review and comments on the effectiveness of the EMS. Engaging the workforce ensures that the EMS is effective, efficient and most of all responsive. This process can take shape via a

number of methods, such as awareness sessions, feedback forms, seminars or environmental training.

#### 5.2.8 Environmental Management Plans

An EMP can be an effective tool for managing environmental issues with individual projects and activities. These can be tailored to identify and control environmental risks to a project / activity level. Similar to the EMS components which is primarily an organizational approach to their activities, an EMP can be developed to incorporate information required for a specific project or task and designed to be easily followed by personnel carrying out the activities.

#### 5.2.9 Monitoring

An organization should aim to conduct activities in an environmentally responsible manner and implement best practice environmental management as part of a program of continuous improvement. This commitment to continuous improvement means an organisation should review an EMS as required or at a pre-determined frequency (e.g. in response to new information and periodically).

Reviews should address matters such as the overall design and effectiveness of the EMS/EMP, if works are not appropriately covered by the System/Plan, or measures are identified to improve.

These should also include a schedule which identifies what actions will be monitored, by whom, the frequency and the responsible sign-off person to confirm monitoring has been undertaken. Monitoring procedures, forms and checklists may be required and legislative requirements and licence standards/or exposure standard limits (e.g. dust emissions), if existing, listed and the metrics for measurement clearly stated. Any contingency plans, preventive or corrective action procedures should be identified and detailed in the plan to mitigate failures identified through monitoring.

Example: A simple waste schedule will allow weekly or monthly waste data (from each waste stream on site) to be recorded and compared to any targets set. The metrics for reporting should relate the amount of waste created, recycled and land filled to the amount of production e.g. total waste / unit production; recycled waste / unit production etc. This will assist in tracking the efficiency of any measures implemented to reduce or better manage waste. Monthly reporting to senior management will assist in evaluating overall progress and provide a basis for review and improvement decisions if necessary.

### 5.3 Environmental Performance

An important part of any system is to evaluate the performance and to establish if the risks are being controlled and the goals are being met. This can be achieved by reviews, audits and performance evaluation. These aspects should be reported internally and usually external reporting is a legislative requirement.

### 5.3.1 Audits

An internal audit schedule should be developed and maintained that includes audits on an organisation's environmental performance and compliance. The general procedure should include:

- record and maintain all internal audits and the audit outcomes
- track actions arising from internal audits until their close-out
- facilitate audits and/or inspections by external regulations. The findings of external regulatory audits to be recorded and actions and/or recommendation addressed and tracked

### 5.3.2 Performance Evaluation

Environmental performance indicators must be specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and time-framed and related to organizational practices and procedures. For example, an organization should clearly identify in a plan or schedule its environmental objectives, what the actions are against each objective and how they will be measured.

Example 1:

- Objective - continue to develop effective tools and systems to manage environmental responsibilities
- Action - maintain and continually improve an organization's EMS
- Target - management review of EMS annually

Example 2:

- Objective - an environmentally aware and committed workforce
- Action - rolling program of targeted environmental training for staff
- Target - identify number of staff trained every year

Some potential indicators which may be used to track significant environmental effects of an organization include:

- environmental training – no. of staff given environmental training
- organization's EMP – progress against objectives and targets outlined in the EMP
- breaches of statutory instruments – total number of prosecutions and notices issued
- greenhouse gases – net greenhouse gas emissions (net tonne CO<sub>2</sub> – equivalents)
- waste management – solid waste generated (tonnes); waste recycled or reused expressed as a % of solid waste generated
- contaminated land – number of sites under control of an organization that present a significant risk of harm as defined by legislation
- community partnerships – value of sponsorship for community environmental projects
- financial indicators – operating costs; overall service delivery; price of AtoNs

### 5.3.3 External Reporting

Environmental reporting is a public record and can be considered as an 'open window' of an organization's environmental performance on regulatory compliance, pollution control and corporate stewardship. It is also a significant tool for environmental communication

to employees, stakeholders and the public in a transparent and accountable way. It conveys the major impacts an organization has on the environment, the resources it uses, and the waste it generates.

Generally, environmental reporting should be published annually, and should communicate some key elements of an organization's environmental performance:

1. **Organizational structure** to reflect the size, location, number of employees and core business of an organization.
2. **Environmental policy** to show how the organization is committed to meeting its environmental responsibilities.
3. **Objectives and Targets** assist an organization fulfill their environmental commitments stated in the environmental policy and in effect, use resources more efficiently, reduce operating costs and improve overall performance.
4. **Indicators** present the information on how an organization achieves objectives and targets, and tracks inputs and outputs in a visually attractive and understandable way. They help stakeholders see right away what the major environmental impacts are, and how the organization is working to minimize negative and encourage positive environmental effects.
5. **Major Environmental Impacts** indicate how the organization's operational activities may impact on the environment. An organization should identify the source of all pollutants and potential pollutants, the environmental factors which may be impacted and document measures to manage and/or mitigate the impacts on the environment.
6. **Commitment to employees and the community** details and demonstrates an organizations commitment to employees and the community.

#### 5.4 Environmental Emergency Response

The objective of environmental emergency response (EER) is to ensure incident planning and response procedures are managed effectively during AtoN operational activities and to outline the general procedures for initiating an emergency response that could occur as a result of AtoN works or natural causes.

In the event of changed circumstances, any planned control measures should be reviewed, risk assessed and, where appropriate and practical, amended as necessary prior to commencing new or modified activities.

An EER plan should detail:

- An organization's security and public safety issues;
- Effective spill containment and management;
- Effective fire fighting capabilities;
- Effective response to emergencies and critical incidents;
- A single set of emergency procedures, consistent with the existing organization's Emergency Plan, that can be scaled as appropriate for any incident or emergency;
- An incident reporting procedure which details timeframes and documentation required. An environmental incident should be reported as soon as practicable to an organization's environmental representative.
- Details of any further reporting required for relevant government authorities.

## 5.5 Stakeholder engagement and consultation

### 5.5.1 Stakeholder engagement

Effective stakeholder engagement and consultation is a very important aspect in managing environmental requirements for maintaining and constructing AtoN. Management of AtoN sites and activities needs to take into consideration the views of environmental stakeholders to ensure the best balance of environmental constraints and practical maintenance and construction capability.

### 5.5.2 Social Responsibility - Traditional and Cultural Heritage

An organisation's attitudes and environmental management practices at the operational level can have a profound effect on local traditional communities, and play an important role in shaping the relationship between an organisation and the communities affected by its operations.

This is a regional issue and an authority's approach should be based on the profile of communities and indigenous cultures that interact in one way or another with their operations.

General, practical measures may include:

- ensure compliance with relevant legislative framework concerned with all aspects of the protection and conservation of environmental heritage, including AtoN infrastructure, works, places or relics that are identified as of historic, scientific, cultural, social, archaeological, architectural, natural or aesthetic significance
- undertake appropriate consultation & community impact assessment for changes to existing AtoN infrastructure, applicable new infrastructure and relevant operational activities. Community consultation may involve a range of methodologies such as cultural mapping, oral histories, archival documentation and specific information provided by the community.
- identify interested community groups or local traditional community
- take reasonable precautions to identify, protect, conserve and address traditional and cultural heritage issues arising from activity
- provide appropriate mitigation or protection to sites prior to activities
- check that any permit requirements governing cultural heritage management are secured prior to disturbance of any known cultural heritage site and following consultation with local traditional community
- assess any cultural heritage issues arising using protocols and policies
- establish a suitable induction program to ensure relevant personnel are aware of their responsibilities concerning sites and operational activities at any identified cultural heritage site.

An induction program could be developed in consultation with local traditional communities and include:

- cultural awareness
- significance of cultural heritage to local traditional community stakeholders
- relevant cultural heritage legislation
- roles and responsibilities regarding the protection and management of cultural heritage
- work activity pack which identifies location of cultural heritage sites and any constraint / control plans and operation notes, details of personnel to contact

if a problem occurs at a site, and a detailed description of relevant acts and legal responsibilities

## 5.6 Reducing Environmental Impact

### 5.6.1 Environmental Sustainability

An organisation should strive for sustainability in its operations. Sustainable use of resources can be achieved by a number of ways.

- recycling – reduction of waste by reusing and recycling to save money on costly landfill and transport services. In addition, waste reduction and recycling campaigns ensure that an organization is contributing to a tangible sustainable future
- managing waste streams including paper from the administration activities, construction and demolition waste from redevelopment, and hazardous substances
- using renewable energy – the use of solar panels that convert solar radiation into direct current electricity
- developing and promoting a culture of environmental leadership, responsibility and continual improvement
- advancing and disseminating environmental knowledge and applied environmental management through training and engagement with the wider community.

### 5.6.2 Carbon Footprint – Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Carbon emissions refer to the release of polluting carbon compounds into the atmosphere, most commonly attributed to human activity such as burning fossil fuels. Carbon emissions are usually measured in metric tons. A **carbon footprint** has historically been defined as "the total set of greenhouse gas caused by an organization, event, product or person."

This issue has become an issue of global interest, due to debate over global warming and an organization should consider:

- a Greenhouse Gas Emissions Strategy including initiatives that will offset greenhouse gas emissions
- an incentive program to take up fuel efficient fleet of cars
- potential for greater use of fuel alternatives e.g. biofuels
- use of renewable energy such as solar panels that convert solar radiation into direct current electricity
- a recycled materials strategy, and
- potential to increase the amount of recycled materials used for new infrastructure projects

Some useful methods to calculate carbon footprint are:

- Greenhouse gases – net greenhouse gas emission (net tonne CO<sub>2</sub> – equivalents)
- Electricity consumption
- Waste management – solid waste generated (tonnes)
- Waste recycled or reused expressed as a percentage of solid waste

- CO2 equivalent emission from authority vehicle fleet, tonnes per km travelled p.a.
- CO2 equivalent emissions from an organizations-related air travel, tonnes per FTE p.a.

### 5.6.3 Material Life Cycle

Material life cycle is the life cycle of a product or service. As environmental awareness increases and community expectations grow, organizations need to move beyond compliance to pollution prevention strategies and environmental management systems that will improve their performance. Part of the process is to manage the total material life cycle of their products and services towards more sustainable consumption and production.

Material life cycle assessment (also known as life cycle analysis, cradle-to-grave-analysis) is the environmental impact of a given product or service throughout its lifespan including raw material extraction, manufacture, distribution, use, pollution caused by usage (e.g. greenhouse gases, depletion of fossil fuels), ultimate product disposal and material transportation. The goal is to provide a more accurate picture of the true environmental trade-offs in product and process selection, to optimize the environmental performance of a single product or to optimize the environmental performance of an organisation.

## 6 TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS

As AtoN management and maintenance involves physical processes such as fabrication, maintenance, construction and the use of hazardous materials in marine environments, technical aspects are an important consideration. This section addresses specific areas of concern and potential solutions to minimize the environmental impact of AtoN equipment and activities.

### 6.1 Hazardous Substances

An organisation must identify and adequately manage environmental hazards including wastes or contaminants entering the immediate environment. Potentially, an organisation may have to deal with a wide range of these hazardous substances, and as well as multiple hazards in individual sites. These hazards may also arise at varying times or interact to produce a number of unwanted outcomes.

It is important an organization:

- identifies hazardous substances which present a risk to within the site and adjacent to the site.
- maintains a register of all hazardous substances being used, including the level of risk they present in the event of their release into the environment
- ensures there are control measures or procedures in place to manage the storage and handling of hazardous substances.
- ensure that all details of the substance, the correct handling and storage controls and any emergency response requirements are communicated clearly to those personnel involved in handling those substances.

## **6.2 Mercury**

There are a variety of health hazards associated with mercury. These are particularly serious in the event of a fire, or for personnel engaged in mercury maintenance and clean-up operations. Sources of mercury include lantern bearing baths in lighthouses, the residual contamination in surrounding areas from these baths or from leaking storage containers, certain electrical relays and control gear, and some types of primary batteries. The following actions can be taken to deal with issues related to mercury:

- Use mercury-free batteries.
- Phase out mercury-containing relays and return the ones currently in use to the manufacturer for recycling when they are no longer serviceable.
- Evaluate the area to determine the presence of residual mercury.
- Provide adequate fire safety signage that points out the presence of mercury.
- Use licensed contractors to clean equipment and dispose of contaminated waste.
- Design-out mercury bearings.
- Decontaminate structures.
- Store clean mercury in well-ventilated areas. Use appropriate containers.
- Disposal of mercury-related waste should be carried out in a timely manner, and this material should not be allowed to accumulate in large quantities. Label the waste containers and store appropriately in a well-ventilated area until disposal by an authorized agent.

## **6.3 Asbestos**

Asbestos has been used in AtoN facilities to varying degrees and over varying periods of time in different Authorities. The primary source of AtoN-related asbestos would be in lighthouses or associated structures. Applications can include items such as pipe lagging, shingles, roofing and guttering, floor tiles, siding, and wall board. When it is intact, asbestos in good condition poses little hazard. However, if this material is sanded, cut, torn, or damaged, hazardous airborne fibres may be generated and remain suspended in the air for long periods of time. Inhaling these fibres can lead to chronic and deadly diseases.

Here are suggestions for dealing with asbestos:

- Asbestos should never be used in new installations.
- For existing structures and equipment, surveys should be conducted to establish where asbestos and asbestos-containing products have been used. Based on such surveys, a specific management plan should be introduced to label, register and control the disturbance of installed asbestos or asbestos-containing products or to remove them under controlled conditions.
- National legislation should be implemented in relation to existing structures and equipment containing asbestos products.

## **6.4 Lead based paints**

Prior to 1970, lead was the major ingredient in paint and was used as a base, as a drying agent, as colouring (often white, red, orange, yellow and scarlet) and to protect steel and iron from corrosion. Lead-based paints were used both inside and outside of buildings and as protective coatings on plant and equipment and were widely used on AtoN structures. The removal of lead-based paint from buildings, structures, plant and

equipment can result in harm to those workers carrying out the removal work and the environment if not captured, handled and disposed of appropriately.

Containment or full encapsulation may be required to capture the paint being removed so it is not released into the environment. Countries will usually have a legislative requirement for managing lead based paints detailing the safety and environmental controls required for removal, containment transport and disposal.

For paint removal the following activities and equipment may be required:

- Containment: Dependent on the scale of paint removal required will indicate the amount of containment required to effectively capture the contaminated paint. Containment methods for different scale of works
  - o Localized paint removal - Heavy duty plastic drop sheeting in the immediate area of localized paint removal.
  - o Large scale paint removal - Full encapsulation of the structure at a negative pressure with dust extraction filters.
- Cleaning: Ensure that the methods used to clean a lead process area do not spread the contamination of lead dust and debris off site. Shovelling or sweeping should be minimized. Blowing down with compressed air is generally prohibited, except within ventilated containments – blow-down of surface dust should be starting at the highest point of the structure within the containment and working downwards to the bottom of the structure.
  - o Heavy duty plastic drop sheeting
    - Polyethylene ground sheets to seal off work areas including floor, soil and vegetation for the sufficient collection of falling paint debris and dust and prevent contamination.
    - Outside work – extend two meters of polyethylene ground sheets from the base of the building or structure and an additional meter for each story. Edges of the sheets should be turned by at least 100mm to contain any liquid discharge For a scaffold, tie a sheet underneath to catch falling paint debris.
    - Inside work - install polyethylene ground sheets with the edges sealed using heavy-duty tape.
    - Maintain all sheets and replace immediately if torn.
    - Avoid working in wet or windy conditions, as lead dust and paint might be washed or blown off the plastic sheeting and away from the work area.
  - o High efficiency Particulate Air (HEPA) filter
    - HEPA filter fitted to a suitable commercial vacuum cleaner for particulate removal or a liquid vacuum cleaner for liquid waste removal. Vacuuming is considered to be the most reliable method of cleaning surfaces on which dust accumulates.
  - o Clean heavy duty plastic bags – polyethylene
    - Polyethylene bags 150 L bags or 200 L drums with ties for lead paint debris and disposable items

## **6.5 Batteries**

Batteries contain toxic and hazardous materials such as heavy metals, acids, and alkalis. Disposing of them requires special handling, and leakage of these materials

could harm the environment. Batteries can enter the environment through accidental loss, vandalism, or deliberate disposal. This creates a waste remediation problem in the water or on land at an AtoN site. If different types of battery and electrolyte are used, separate storage, handling, and disposal of the different types is required.

The following are ways to minimize these problems:

- Switch from primary batteries to solar power systems with rechargeable secondary batteries. Recycling of these batteries can often be done through the battery supplier.
- Ensure that disposal of non-recyclable batteries is carried out by licensed contractors or waste disposal authorities who provide documentation of proper disposal at authorized waste facilities.
- Recycling and disposal should be carried out in a timely manner. Batteries should not be allowed to accumulate in large quantities. Store the waste batteries in appropriate containers which are secure, ventilated, and labeled according to contents.
- Implement engineering solutions to minimize the chances of battery loss through collisions or vandalism.
- Use specifications and technologies that minimize power consumption and storage requirements.
- Consider using the available mains (commercial power), and carefully evaluate whether backup battery systems are absolutely required.

## **6.6 Paints**

Maintaining the service life of steel in a marine environment is an extreme challenge for coatings. Many systems that have been used in the past (or are still in use) are now recognized as being unfriendly to the environment--most notably, paints with lead or other heavy metals, and those high in volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Lead presents a removal hazard, a significant disposal expense, and it persists in the environment and bio-accumulates in plants and animals. Hexavalent chromium is highly toxic to humans and animals at very small doses. VOCs can cause serious health problems for workers and contribute to air pollution in the lower and upper reaches of the atmosphere. Marine- grade paints (epoxies, polyurethanes) pose hazards to the unprotected applicator, and antifouling paints by their very nature are toxic to marine life.

The following solutions to minimise the environmental impact of paints involve the selection of appropriate materials and reducing the disposal of waste paint:

- Select paints that have a long service life. This will reduce the frequency of maintenance visits required for repainting, which will in turn save fuel and minimize paint-related waste.
- Avoid paints containing heavy metals such as lead, chromium, or mercury.
- Select paints that are low in VOCs. Consider the use of waterborne, UV-curable, high-solids, and powder coatings rather than traditional solvent-based coatings.
- Substitute other protective measures. Reduce the need for paint by the use of alternative construction materials (e.g., plastics or corrosion-resistant steel) or protective mechanisms (e.g., galvanizing, cathodic protection systems) in AtoN design.
- Minimize the use of antifouling paint. Only use this type of paint if absolutely required by the application. Explore alternatives to traditional antifouling

paint, such as "release" or "slippery" (adhesive) paints to which organisms don't stick.

- Paint indoors. Where feasible, utilize indoor painting facilities that have water collection/separation and air filtering systems to prevent fumes and particulate matter from entering the environment.
- Minimize waste paint disposal. The best method of reducing paint waste is to carefully estimate how much product will be required for a particular application so as to have little or nothing remaining for disposal. If paint is kept in stock, attempt to use it before the storage life expiration date, and don't maintain so much inventory that it expires before use. All this requires careful procurement, stocking, and use practices, and conscientious inventory management. For example, an inventory control system with a "first-in-first-out" (FIFO) policy will reduce the amount of expired materials. Require a one-for-one exchange in which workers must return an empty container in order to receive a new one. This will control the number of open containers, and thus reduce the risk of spills, contamination, and wasted materials. When waste paint must be disposed of, segregate and classify the material by type, since some paints have characteristics that make them more hazardous and expensive to dispose of (e.g., lead-based paints) than other "safer" paints (e.g., acrylics). Label the containers according to their contents and level of hazard, and store appropriately until disposal by an authorized agent. Disposal should be carried out in a timely manner, and waste paint should not be allowed to accumulate in large quantities.
- Extend paint shelf life. With regard to expired paint, it is better to use it if possible than to dispose of it as waste. Most two-part epoxies can be properly stored in ambient temperature conditions and remain functional for up to 10 years. Water-based paint and oil-based paint can be stored at ambient conditions for three to five years. Previously opened cans of water-based and oil-based paints are usually not suitable if stored for longer than one year. Previously opened cans of unmixed two-part epoxy paint in good condition may still be good after three to four years in storage. However, it is important to consult the paint supplier to ensure a given product will remain functional before extending the shelf life in this manner.
- Prevent and contain spills. Use appropriate paint storage containers that are labeled correctly, and monitor for leaks. While transporting vats and pails, make sure provisions have been made to catch spillages. Provide ditches, bunds, or other measures in work and storage areas to contain any leakage or spillage.
- After cleaning up spills, store the waste paint, clean-up rags, and other materials in properly-labeled containers prior to disposal by an authorized agent.

## **6.7 Solvents**

Problems with the use of solvents include the release of VOCs into the atmosphere, and the disposal of waste material.

These issues can be addressed as follows:

- Reuse solvents. This reduces the amount of new solvent that must be purchased and the amount of hazardous waste that must be disposed of. One option is to utilize distilling equipment to recycle dirty solvents for

continuous reuse. Commercially available self-contained recycling units can recover 85% or more of waste solvent and make it into reusable solvent, with the remainder being waste sludge that must be disposed of. However, this sludge is a significantly smaller quantity of waste than would be the case with having to dispose of entire barrels of waste solvent. Even without distilling equipment, recycling of solvent is possible. When cleaning spray guns and lines, store the dirty solvent for several days to allow the pigment and resin to settle out, then separate the paint fines by pouring off the solvent for reuse. Solvents used for final wash during equipment cleaning can also be reused as paint thinner.

- Pre-clean parts. Wipe parts with rags or blow compressed air before applying liquid or vapor degreasing solvents. This can reduce the amount of solvent required and extend the life of degreasing solutions. Cold cleaning with mineral spirits can also help reduce solvents by removing grease before vapor degreasing.
- Cover degreasing baths when not in use to reduce solvent losses to the air. Substitute water-based solvents when possible to replace organic solvents.
- Prevent and contain spills. Use appropriate solvent storage containers that are labeled correctly, and monitor for leaks. While transporting vats and pails, make sure provisions have been made to catch spillages. Provide ditches or other measures in work and storage areas to contain any leakage or spillage. After cleaning up spills, store the waste solvent, clean-up rags, and other materials in properly-labeled containers prior to disposal by an authorized agent.
- Disposal should be carried out in a timely manner, and solvents should not be allowed to accumulate in large quantities. Label the waste solvent containers and store appropriately until disposal by an authorized agent.

## **6.8 Blast cleaning**

This process can have negative environmental impacts in terms of solid waste (paint residue, used blast grit) and air emissions (dust from blasting).

The following measures can help mitigate these problems:

- Switch to recyclable blasting media. Material like sand and coal slag generate considerable solid waste and airborne dust, and are normally "one time use" grits that are not recyclable. By contrast, abrasives such as aluminum oxide, garnet, and cast iron can usually be recycled five to seven times. Steel grit can be recycled up to twenty times.
- Blast indoors. Where feasible, utilize an enclosed, indoor steel grit blasting system in which the grit is continuously recycled. The only waste generated is the relatively small amount of paint chips and other debris that is automatically filtered out through a separator for disposal, and airborne dust is contained within the facility.
- Use containment when blasting outdoors. When blasting must be done outdoors, such as when work is done on a lighthouse, build scaffolding around the parts to be blasted and cover with a containment barrier from top to bottom. This will keep most of the harmful dust in, after which it can be swept up and disposed of in a proper manner. Consider using portable blasters which have a grit recycling capability.

- Disposal of blast waste should be carried out in a timely manner, and this material should not be allowed to accumulate in large quantities. Label the waste containers and store appropriately until disposal by an authorized agent.

## **6.9 Fuel**

The most common type of fuel in the AtoN field is diesel, which is used in vessels and generators. This material can accidentally spill and require clean-up. It can become contaminated and require disposal. Its fumes pollute the air, and its exhaust contains sooty emissions. Similar problems can also be encountered with other types of fuel (e.g., gasoline).

The following are measures that can be taken to minimize these problems:

- Switch to solar, commercial power, or other renewable energy sources (e.g., wind) whenever possible.
- When using continuously operating diesel generators, consider converting these to cycling generators which charge batteries as the main source of power.
- Implement measures to prevent and contain spills. Tank leakage may lead to costly soil cleanup operations. Generally, it is better to place tanks above ground than to bury them underground, since leaks in underground tanks are more difficult to observe. The space beneath the above-ground tank should be designed in such a way that leaking fuel will flow to a collection and containment area. A commonly used protection against leakage is the double tank. Leak detectors can be installed on the outer tank to detect leaks in the inner tank. Tanks and other systems related to fuel storage should be inspected at appropriate intervals. Containers for transporting the diesel fuel should be strong enough to withstand a reasonable amount of mishandling.
- Tank filling must be done carefully. Electric overfill detectors are commonly used to automatically stop filling before overfilling occurs. The equipment should be designed for ease of use to avoid spilling. If the diesel fuel is very cold, the tank should not be filled up completely, since the diesel will expand when it warms up.
- Have spillage handling procedures in place. For high-risk areas, consider keeping spillage absorbent material on site.
- Attach a filter to the engine exhaust to reduce the particulate emissions. Check whether cleaner fuel is available in your region.
- Service engines regularly.
- Disposal of residual waste (e.g., absorbents, filters, fuel containers, waste oil) should be carried out in a timely manner, and this material should not be allowed to accumulate in large quantities. Label the waste containers and store appropriately until disposal by an authorized agent.

## **6.10 Synthetic buoys and moorings**

Some synthetic buoy materials do not lend themselves to recycling, or may be mixed together in a way that makes it impossible to separate them for recycling at the end of their useful life. Materials of this type must be disposed of as industrial waste. This creates extra cost, and most of these materials will not degrade after they have been deposited in the landfill. Some materials create toxic air emissions when they are cut up

or burned. Old synthetic moorings that are discarded on site could present a tangling hazard to marine life, or foul the propellers of passing vessels.

Solutions to these issues would include the following:

- Utilize buoys and moorings made from materials that are fully recyclable. Pay attention to the fact that materials that are perfectly recyclable by themselves may become impossible to recycle if they are joined in an inseparable way (e.g., a polyethylene buoy shell with tightly adhering polyurethane foam filling).
- Consider the availability of recycling options before selecting a product. Ask the manufacturer about "cradle-to-grave" support for their products; i.e., whether they are willing to take back old products for proper disposal or recycling.
- Select buoys that can be refurbished. Too often, synthetic buoys are considered a disposable commodity. More durable buoys that can be refurbished instead of discarded lead to less frequent replacement and therefore a smaller waste stream.
- Install and utilize equipment on servicing vessels to recover synthetic moorings rather than disposing of them on site.

#### **6.11 Lamps**

Marine lamps may contain elements that are dangerous to the environment, and thus create problems when lost or disposed of. Sodium and neon lamps are not ozone friendly, and also require special handling and disposal.

Here are suggestions for minimizing these issues:

- Use lamps that are made of inert materials (e.g., krypton gas with tungsten filaments) that can be disposed of as standard waste.
- Select lamps with a longer service life. As an example, metal halide lamps provide 45 times the lumen hours as incandescent lamps, so re-lamping and lamp disposal can be performed less often. LED light sources are another option to be considered.
- Recycle. Lamps can often be recycled or disposed of through the manufacturer or a licensed contractor.

#### **6.12 Noise pollution**

The primary source of AtoN-related noise pollution comes from electric fog horns, which can disturb nearby residents if left running continuously in all visibility conditions. Diesel and wind generators can also be a disturbing noise source.

The following are ways to address these problems:

- Install fog detectors to turn on the fog horns only when visibility falls below a predetermined threshold.
- If possible, plug the foghorn to focus the sound in one direction, and thus minimize noise to the surrounding areas.
- Erect a baffling system around the horn.
- To reduce the noise from diesel generators, install acoustic isolation around the engine shelter and use improved muffler systems.
- For wind generators, address the problem through proper site selection to reduce the noise impact on neighbors, and use the quietest system available.

### **6.13 Light pollution**

This is a problem that sometimes occurs with lighthouses, when the light disturbs surrounding residents. It can be dealt with by “Blacking out” the lantern panes that face toward shore, either through painting them black or installing black panels.

### **6.14 Impact on marine life and habitats**

AtoN equipment and maintenance activities can generate pollution in marine habitats, and can interfere with or harm animals, plants, and birdlife. In the past some batteries were disposed of on-site. Synthetic line sometimes gets abandoned instead of recovered. Different types of spills occur (e.g., diesel fuel, sewage, concrete while building lighthouse foundations on site). Biocide-based antifouling paint on buoys is toxic to marine life. Migratory birds nest on some stations, making it problematic to service the AtoN without disturbing the nests. Servicing vessels may hurt marine animals while working in their habitat. Deploying and retrieving submarine cable and buoy moorings, and installing AtoN structures, can disturb the seafloor or impact sensitive environments. AtoN may be situated in areas where rare or protected flora and fauna are found. It is sometimes necessary to clear trees and brush when AtoN structures become obscured.

The following are ways to minimize the environmental impact of AtoN activities:

- When an AtoN is required in protected or especially sensitive areas, consult with environmental stakeholders and develop compatible solutions. For example, an AtoN structure could be designed to also serve as a bird observatory.
- Extend the maintenance intervals to the greatest extent possible through engineering design solutions or changes in policy. This will minimize the frequency of intrusive servicing visits in marine habitats.
- Schedule maintenance visits to avoid nesting, spawning, and mating periods.
- Shut down wind generators and switch to secondary power systems on the days of extensive bird migration.
- Implement measures to discourage nesting on AtoN equipment. For example, build separate, higher nesting platforms on AtoN structures or add extensions on lantern stands to keep birds from nesting on the signal equipment itself.
- Choose AtoN equipment that has less potential for environmental damage; e.g., use solar power versus primary batteries, diesel, or submarine cable.
- Minimize the impact of the servicing boat's presence: limit the speed to reduce the wake, pay attention to where you anchor, don't leave the engine running.
- Reduce the application of antifouling paint, or use non-biocide alternatives.
- Seek out access roads and methods that have the least impact on the environment. Leave nothing behind. Bring back old batteries, broken AtoN equipment, partial cans of paint, etc. Clean up spills immediately.
- Perform concrete work at a yard on shore if possible, rather than pouring on site.
- Know the environment you'll be working in. Understanding the habitat will help to avoid harmful mistakes during the planning and execution of AtoN activities. If appropriate, rehabilitate the project site after work is complete. Pay particular attention to restoring the correct vegetation; i.e., indigenous versus invasive plants. Some countries have a practice of conserving part of

the original vegetation in a nursery during project execution, for replanting after the work is done.

### **6.15 Vessel operations in coral habitats**

Many AtoN activities are carried out in the vicinity of marine, coastal and riverine habitats. In many cases due to the nature of the AtoN they are located in areas where pristine or ecologically sensitive habitats have been identified.

It is therefore important that there is a full understanding of all sites where an AtoN entity may operate, including any site specific environmental issues, the full scope of activities and their impacts and the mitigation controls required to reduce environmental impact to an acceptable level. Environmental issues related to working in marine habitats are many and varied.

Following are some examples and considerations;

- AtoN entities should ensure that they are aware of the environmental status of all areas they operate in, whether this be through consultation with local stakeholders, appropriate government organizations or NGOs. Where possible, appropriate assessments should be undertaken to assess the ecological, social and general environmental value of the site. Assessment of a site will allow the entity to develop and implement appropriate environmental management and monitoring controls.
- Reconnaissance of regular anchorages in order to choose the most appropriate anchorages with priority given on placing anchors in areas of low ecological value, such as sandy or muddy seabeds.
- Use of appropriately designed moorings wherever possible, to avoid the use of anchors.
- Reconnaissance of transit routes and identification of alternatives.
- Reconnaissance and identification of access routes between shore and land, to avoid disturbance to near-shore and foreshore marine habitats.
- Appropriate choice of weather for movement of vessels and construction platforms.

### **6.16 Contaminated land**

Environmental restoration refers to a comprehensive effort to identify and remediate past hazardous waste sites at AtoN locations. These properties could have contaminated groundwater, surface water, soil or air. The contamination could have come from numerous sources, including operations or processes carried out by the Authority currently or in the past; operations or processes carried out by previous property owners such as military organizations or industrial concerns; or from the property of adjacent landowners. In addition to the largely invisible contaminants, there could be an issue with larger items of junk, which are not only an eyesore but may be leaching contaminants such as PCBs, lead, or hydrocarbons into the ground and ground water.

Here are ways to handle land contamination:

- Avoid contamination legacies by taking preventive measures now. Identify past activities in order to determine likely contaminants.
- The order in which the Authority conducts restoration and cleanup activities may be based on a "worst-first" scenario that assigns the highest and most immediate priority to those facilities representing the greatest hazard to the

environment and to public health and welfare. Some of the criteria used to assign priority could be: imminent and substantial danger to public health or welfare; anticipated danger in the near-term from potential accident, deterioration or failure of safeguards while attempting cleanup or restoration; an ongoing condition with unknown, but potentially serious health consequences unless action is taken; and legally-binding agreements with regulatory agencies.

### **6.17 Waste Management**

In any organization, the uncontrolled generation of waste has the potential to create environmental damage and goes directly against the principles of sustainable operations. Waste should be managed for a number of key reasons;

- To conserve resources of water, energy and raw materials
- To minimize pollution of land, air and water
- To enhance business performance and maintain corporate social responsibility and
- To improve occupational Health & Safety

### **6.18 Erosion Management**

Erosion management includes prevention, mitigation and remediation of soil erosion at AtoN sites.

A suite of erosion management measures may include:

- prevention – reduce the likelihood of erosion initiating by increasing awareness of erosion processes, causes, impacts and treatment options. For example, restricting vehicle movements during wet conditions
- remediation – reduce the on-site and off-site impacts of erosion through remediation of active erosion sites e.g. re-vegetation, earthworks and structures
- coordinate, monitor and evaluate plan implementation and achievements
- minimise on-site and off-site impacts of erosion at times of natural disturbance: fire, flood, drought, cyclones, and earth quakes
- communication – educate personnel on the causes and impacts of erosion on-site and off-site.

Installation of erosion and sediment control measures should take into account site conditions including:

- soil type and erodibility potential
- slope
- rainfall frequency and intensity
- catchment size and therefore required capacity and coordination of control structures
- vegetation cover; and
- proximity to sensitive environments

### **6.19 Habitat Protection / Protection of Flora and Fauna**

As part of responsible environmental stewardship, an organisation should take into account habitat protection or biodiversity conservation including terrestrial and marine ecosystems, and flora and fauna communities which may be affected by AtoN infrastructure or operational activities.

Terrestrial ecosystems are generally recognized by the characteristic vegetation they support, for example; type of grasslands, forests, heathlands, inland waters and coasts. Marine ecosystems are the combination of the animals and plants which depend on each other in some way that make up marine communities, and the physical environment that supports them.

A number of conservation and sustainable environmental practices may be implemented:

- ensure compliance with relevant government legislative framework and policies and any international agreements or treaties on protection of native plant and animal species.
- provide a risk assessment and mitigation strategies for existing flora and fauna.
- establish a baseline inventory of present flora and fauna and any threatened species
- identify sites regarded as significant breeding and nesting sites for year round resident birds or migratory birds or marine creatures where special care must be taken at sensitive times to not disturb nesting and foraging
- consider any quarantine management measures imposed by regulatory authorities and how they impact on AtoN procedures, specifications, roles and responsibilities of personnel. Identify changes to operational activities or processes that could have an impact on quarantine, and define and implement measures to minimise quarantine risks
- ensure an appropriate policy is in place for managing established or introduced weeds.

## **6.20 Prevention of Introduction of non-endemic species and diseases**

Maintenance and construction activities can be conducted in areas of environmental significance and the introduction of non-endemic species and diseases could have a detrimental effect on the ecosystem.

Non-endemic species and diseases can be transferred from site to site by the means of human interaction during AtoN maintenance and construction activities. Species and diseases can be transferred to site on equipment, tools, materials, machinery and workers personal protective clothing. One of the common causes of transfer is within dirt.

Typical issues are the transfer of:

- Weeds
- Rodents
- Insects
- Diseases

Likely controls are:

- Inspection prior to mobilizing or entry to site:
  - o Construction and maintenance materials inspection;
  - o Tools and equipment inspections;
- Cleaning and sanitization prior to mobilizing or entry to site:
  - o Washing down all equipment and machinery
  - o Washing and cleaning workers tools and personal protective clothing (especially boots).