



Environment (Wales) Act 2016

2016 anaw 3

PART 1

SUSTAINABLE MANAGEMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

Introduction

1 Purpose of this Part

The purpose of this Part is to promote sustainable management of natural resources.

2 Natural resources

In this Part, “natural resources” includes (but is not limited to)—

- (a) animals, plants and other organisms;
- (b) air, water and soil;
- (c) minerals;
- (d) geological features and processes;
- (e) physiographical features;
- (f) climatic features and processes.

3 Sustainable management of natural resources

(1) In this Part, “sustainable management of natural resources” means—

- (a) using natural resources in a way and at a rate that promotes achievement of the objective in subsection (2),
- (b) taking other action that promotes achievement of that objective, and
- (c) not taking action that hinders achievement of that objective.

(2) The objective is to maintain and enhance the resilience of ecosystems and the benefits they provide and, in so doing—

- (a) meet the needs of present generations of people without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their needs, and
- (b) contribute to the achievement of the well-being goals in section 4 of the [Well-being of Future Generations \(Wales\) Act 2015 \(anaw 2\)](#).

4 Principles of sustainable management of natural resources

In this Part, the “principles of sustainable management of natural resources” are—

- (a) manage adaptively, by planning, monitoring, reviewing and, where appropriate, changing action;
- (b) consider the appropriate spatial scale for action;
- (c) promote and engage in collaboration and co-operation;
- (d) make appropriate arrangements for public participation in decision-making;
- (e) take account of all relevant evidence and gather evidence in respect of uncertainties;
- (f) take account of the benefits and intrinsic value of natural resources and ecosystems;
- (g) take account of the short, medium and long term consequences of actions;
- (h) take action to prevent significant damage to ecosystems;
- (i) take account of the resilience of ecosystems, in particular the following aspects—
 - (i) diversity between and within ecosystems;
 - (ii) the connections between and within ecosystems;
 - (iii) the scale of ecosystems;
 - (iv) the condition of ecosystems (including their structure and functioning);
 - (v) the adaptability of ecosystems.