

ASSI Policy Statement Number: 24

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Subject: ASSI Sustainable Development and Aviation Environmental Policy

Rationale

The UKCAA has, as required by UK Government, established policy objectives regarding aviation environmental matters in respect of airspace, safety, aircraft environmental certification, and economic regulatory functions. It follows the publication of new national and international environmental strategies and legislation. The Government requires that civil aviation arrangements be subject to continuous review aimed at reducing congestion and delays whilst mitigating aviation's environmental impact.

As a result, ASSI must establish, in co-operation with the Territories, its own policy on such issues.

Within this framework, ASSI and the OT DCAs recognise:

- Aviation plays a pivotal role in the development of economic growth and employment within the OTs.
- The Territories' aviation industries, including airlines, airports, and supporting industries make a significant and direct contribution to prosperity, as well as facilitating growth in other industries.
- The aviation industry also provides many jobs, both directly and indirectly.
- Social progress in the OTs must recognise the needs of everyone. Aviation brings benefits through tourism, business communications, employment, cultural exchange and opportunities for travel.
- There must be a prudent use of natural resources. Aviation consumes many natural resources - in particular, fossil fuels and the raw materials necessary for producing aircraft. Airport development can also involve significant land use (including for access by surface transport) and has the potential for urbanisation of the surrounding area.
- Everyone in aviation has a responsibility to contribute to the effective protection of the environment. Aviation affects climate change, local air quality (particularly around airports), noise levels near airports and under flightpaths, energy use, waste and water.

Relevance to ASSI's Mission, Values and Guiding Principles

ASSI's Mission is:

To ensure, in an inclusive and sustainable manner, that the UK meets its international obligations in respect of aviation safety regulation within the UK Overseas Territories.

Extracting from its Values and Guiding Principles, ASSI addresses 'Sustainability' by

Ensuring the long-term consequences of any actions/recommendations have been given due consideration, are consulted on and the process documented.

Within this definition, “long-term consequences” must inevitably include recognition of environmental impacts.

The Government defines ‘in a sustainable manner’ as aiming to ensure ‘a better quality of life for everyone, now and for generations to come’.

Policy

1. In support of the Government’s objectives for sustainable development, and the principle that aviation should fully meet its environmental costs and obligations, ASSI will seek to encourage civil aviation to mitigate the detrimental impact of the industry on the environment, without compromising safety standards.
2. Implementation of the policy will be effected through objectives addressed by means of strategies and actions published in our Business Plan.
3. Wherever possible, others in the aviation community will be encouraged to adopt appropriate policies through regulatory documents and contributions to international meetings etc.
4. ASSI will establish, or ensure the availability of, the capability to provide independent expert technical advice on aviation environmental issues in the Territories to DfT, FCO, Territory Governments and industry. Such efforts will include the monitoring of environmentally driven requirements for aircraft operations in the Territories to ensure that aircraft safety is not compromised.
5. ASSI will, wherever relevant, exercise its air navigation functions in accordance with the Secretary of State’s Guidance to the CAA on Environmental Objectives. This will be achieved by mitigating the impact of aviation on the environment in the planning, designing and revision of airspace procedures and arrangements.
6. ASSI will ensure that the Overseas Territories Aviation Requirements require all Territory-registered aircraft to be compliant with appropriate environmental certification requirements.