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Environmental monitoring

Monitoring should provide evidence for policy and decision-making, public bodies and others will work together more closely to achieve this.

CAMERAS Co-ordinated Agenda for Marine, Environment and Rural Affairs Science) have approved a monitoring strategy, which sets out a vision for monitoring in Scotland:

“Scotland's coordinated programme of environmental monitoring will provide the evidence needed for decision-makers to protect and improve the environment, thereby enhancing people's wellbeing and supporting sustainable economic growth.”

The CAMERAS partners agreed that Scotland's environmental monitoring should:

1. provide information on the pressures upon the environment;
 2. provide the information to assess the state of the environment;
 3. provide evidence on the consequences of environmental change upon society;
 4. focus on those parts of the environment.
 1. which are most likely to be subject to change;
 2. which are likely to have the greatest impact upon society;
 3. which are subject to change and have high environmental value.
1. have the potential to detect the environmental consequences of new, unanticipated environmental pressures and events;
 2. deliver statutory and policy obligations.



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Monitoring should involve the public in understanding, monitoring and valuing the environment, various [citizen science](#) initiatives are starting this process.

The monitoring strategy has been published, and is available on the [Scottish Government](#) website.

To further the development of a co-ordinated monitoring network, Monitoring Action Plans are being written for key areas of the environment, including [soil](#) and [freshwater](#).