

NS-R1: Natural Systems Assessment

Intent

To ensure that before the design process begins, the environmental baseline conditions surrounding, connected to and on the site are considered and assessed.

Credit Requirements

GENERAL

Demonstrate that, before the start of the design process and site clearance, a field survey and desktop assessment of the existing site conditions have been carried out by a *suitably qualified environmental professional*.

Approvals

- Demonstrate Environmental NOC approval for the project works from the Abu Dhabi Environment Agency (EAD).
- Demonstrate approval for the project works from the Abu Dhabi Tourism & Culture Authority (ADTCA).

Desktop Survey

The desktop study survey is to be based on the sub-regional and regional scale and is required to:

- Demonstrate if the development is within 100m of areas designated sensitive or protected, as identified in the:
 - o Regional Environmental Framework Plan contained in Plan Abu Dhabi 2030; and
 - o Regional Urban Structure Framework Plan;
- Demonstrate that the Interim Coastal Development Guidelines have been addressed and an Environmental Context Statement prepared, if required;
- Demonstrate if the development is within 100m of environmental assets as defined in EAD's geo-portal; and
- Identify potential sources of contamination from previous land use.

Site Survey

A Phase I Habitat Survey* must be carried out for the project site to identify significant or valuable assets, which are defined as follows:

- Significant Assets which are of significant importance (internationally, nationally, regionally and/or locally). These include:
 - o Priority Habitats;
 - o Priority Species; and
 - o Any other habitat identified as significant through the Development Review Process, the Coastal Development Guidelines, an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), a Preliminary Environmental Review (PER) or a Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA).
- Valuable Assets - Any valuable assets, such as features of ecological value, including healthy native trees or shrubs; and
- Notable sources of current or historic contamination, including waste.

*Where significant or valuable assets are recorded identify a mechanism to ensure that further surveys are carried out and any resulting mitigation is implemented.

Natural Systems Assessment Report

Demonstrate that a Natural Systems Assessment Report has been prepared to capture the following elements:

- Living environment - flora, fauna and habitats;
- Physical environment - topography, geology, soils, hydrology, contamination and microclimate; and
- Human environment - archaeology and cultural heritage.

The report must cover the project site and area of probable impact surrounding the