INTERNAL WATERWAYS

Principles and Design Objectives:

- Protect the natural ecosystems of the Abu Dhabi marine and coastal environment, and recognise and enhance significant habitats and species.
- Embed sustainability into the planning of uses in Abu Dhabi waterways and minimise the impacts of current and proposed developments.
- Balance economic return whilst sustaining the diversity of Abu Dhabi's maritime and marine coastlines.
- Balance commercial, recreational, working waterfront, safety and security uses with environmental protection and conservation.
- Protect, maintain and enhance the natural and visual attributes of the waterways and coastlines, and ensure that these are compatible with the existing or planned future character.
- Protect waterways for general use and support sustainable land/water interface and waterways development in appropriate locations.
- Provide for waterway areas that are compatible with specific celebration, entertainment and recreational activities.
- Facilitate the provision of water-based public transport facilities.
- Provide for sustainable fishing industries and recreational fishing.
- Enable the efficient and safe operation and movement of commercial shipping, as well as public and private water-based transport.
- Plan for and adapt to climate change and sea level rise.
- Support the continued evolution of maritime industries, and to recognise Emirati cultural and traditional links with the maritime environment.
- Ensure that the cumulative impact of proposed development, will not adversely affect the character and environmental quality of the waterways and adjoining waterfront.
- Ensure water based development does not adversely impact water quality.
- Recognise the importance of the oil and gas sector in the economy and support the requirements of this sector in a sustainable manner.
- Facilitate the planning of fully integrated water based seaport infrastructure with land based planning.
- Protect maritime heritage that is in the waterway, at the land/water interface, which has an historic relationship with the waterway.