

# PART ONE: FRAMEWORK OF THE PEIMP

## Chapter 2: Policy framework



PRINCE EDWARD ISLANDS  
MANAGEMENT PLAN



Chapter 2



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## 2. Policy Framework

### 2.1 Policy context: Conservation significance of the Prince Edward Islands

The Prince Edward Islands are the most southerly part of South Africa's official territory, and its only overseas possession. The islands and their surrounding waters provide moulting and breeding grounds for millions of top predators, provide feeding grounds for seabirds, seals and migrating cetaceans, and support a commercially exploited fish population. The species and ecosystems of the islands are in many ways unique<sup>1,2</sup> and represent one of the few such systems globally. The relatively simple terrestrial ecosystems are ideal for studying ecosystem processes and their responses to environmental change. The situation of the Prince Edward Islands in the Southern Ocean makes them a valuable platform for the measurement of atmospheric and ocean variables necessary for a broader understanding of global climate change, as well as for weather prediction. Thus it is fitting that the islands should enjoy substantial protection through their status as a Special Nature Reserve.

There are, however, substantial threats to the conservation of the islands. Most significant among these are the effects of alien species that are already on the island, and the risks of introducing additional species. Not only are invasive alien species capable of causing the local extinction of species (and their global extinction if they are endemic), but they are also able to have massive effects on local ecosystem functioning. Moreover, alien species in the form of diseases can also have devastating effects on species that are of conservation concern. Other threats include pollution of the marine inshore and terrestrial environments and disturbance of wildlife and significant sites. Less obvious problems, and those more difficult to resolve locally, are climate change-related ecosystem changes and the effects of long-line fishing.

The overarching goal of the policies described below is to efficiently and effectively manage and protect the biodiversity and landscapes of the Prince Edward Islands Special Nature Reserve, whilst encouraging and facilitating valid scientific research.

### 2.2 Policies

#### 2.2.1 Access

The access policy aims to limit and control entry to the Prince Edward Islands Special Nature Reserve to legitimate scientific research, conservation and management activities, and the recording of news events or educational or scientific programmes. This limitation and control is consistent with the high level of protection afforded the reserve under South African law. The access policy also authorises and regulates the number of expeditioners to the islands. The smaller of the two islands in the group, Prince Edward Island has some of the least disturbed sub-Antarctic floral and faunal communities on earth and thus has the highest level of protection in terms of access. For further details regarding the access policy, refer to Chapter 4, section 4.6.

#### 2.2.2 Zonation

The Prince Edward Islands Special Nature Reserve has been demarcated into five zones where various activities may take place in order to achieve the goals of the reserve's Management Plan and to afford maximum protection

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<sup>1</sup> Chown, S.L. & Froneman, P.W. (eds). (2008) The Prince Edward Archipelago: Land-Sea Interactions in a Changing Ecosystem. Sun Media, Stellenbosch.

<sup>2</sup> Terauds, A., Cooper, J., Chown, S.L. & Ryan, P.R. 2010. Marion and Prince Edward. South Africa's Southern Islands. Sun Press, Stellenbosch. ISBN 978-1-920338-42-8.

to species, ecosystems, natural features and historic sites. Access to these zones is according to permit conditions set by Department of Environmental Affairs' Chief Directorate: Ocean Conservation. For more details about this policy, refer to the zoning plan (Chapter 4, section 4.2.2).

### ***2.2.3 Reserve expansion***

Department of Environmental Affairs' Directorate: Southern Oceans and Antarctic Support supports South Africa's initiative to proclaim a Marine Protected Area, encompassing the territorial waters and at least some parts of the Exclusive Economic Zone around the islands, and extending out to 200 nm from their shores. For more information, refer to Chapter 1, section 1.4.

### ***2.2.4 Wilderness aesthetic***

The Prince Edward Islands are the most southerly and remote part of South Africa, and also the part of the country which has been least impacted by human development. The islands, especially Prince Edward Island, have nearly pristine wilderness landscapes with few signs of human occupation or disturbance, and their landscapes and faunal communities are aesthetically exceptional. The wilderness aesthetic of the islands shall be monitored, protected and maintained through appropriate access (Chapter 4, section 4.6), zoning (Chapter 4, section 4.2.2), development (Chapter 4, section 4.10) and pollution (Chapter 5, section 5.4 and Chapter 7) controls. These controls shall be maximally applied in Zones 3-5.

### ***2.2.5 Sustainable resource use***

In keeping with its Special Nature Reserve status, the primary uses of the natural resources of the Prince Edward Islands are research and education. In the course of these activities, the use of resources shall take account of:

- The interests and needs of present and future generations;
- Environmental impacts related to resource exploitation;
- The carrying capacity of the environment and concerns for the maintenance of biodiversity;
- The potential for pursuing alternative activities with lesser environmental impacts.

### ***2.2.6 International cooperation***

The Department of Environmental Affairs shall ensure that, in matters which involve the Prince Edward Islands, South Africa acts in accordance with national environmental policy in dealing with international treaties and agreements, and that environmental considerations are included in all international negotiations that will affect the islands. Requirements arising from international environmental agreements and obligations shall be met. There shall be cooperation on internationally shared environmental concerns. Due care shall be taken to adopt appropriate measures to prevent trans-boundary environmental harm.

### ***2.2.7 Environmental health and safety***

The environmental health and safety policy of the South African National Antarctic Programme is followed at the Prince Edward Islands Special Nature Reserve. This is that the maintenance of a South African presence at the Prince Edward Islands shall have no permanent negative consequence on this environment; that every expeditioner to the islands shall, as far as possible, have safe and healthy working conditions in a clean environment; and that safety considerations shall take preference over all other activities.

Due to the isolated location of the Prince Edward Islands, responsibility for search and rescue lies with the Departmental Coordinating Officer during annual relief periods and with the overwintering Team Leader at all other times. The Department of Environmental Affairs shall provide advice and backup as needed.

### 2.2.8 Adventure/recreation activities

The South African National Antarctic Programme (SANAP) policy regarding adventure/recreation activities is followed at the Prince Edward Islands. Accordingly, all adventure/recreation activities by participants in or stakeholders of SANAP or Department of Environmental Affairs are prohibited, which do not form part of the SANAP duties and/or responsibilities and are therefore not permissible in terms of SANAP / Department of Environmental Affairs' service delivery. For Marion Island a single exception is made: viz. a maximum of four, seven day walks around the island over a one-year period for team members to enable them to benefit from and be educated about the pristine environment of the island.

### 2.2.9 Operations management

In keeping with the Special Nature Reserve status of the Prince Edward Islands, development at the islands shall be kept to a minimum and shall be restricted to Zones 1 and 2. However, where development is deemed necessary in these zones, an operational development plan shall be drafted, and the environmental impact assessment process as required by national legislation shall be completed before an environmental authorisation for the development is issued. If authorisation is granted, development must proceed according to an Environmental Management Plan.

The following principles guide operations management for the reserve:

- Negative impacts on ecosystems and loss of biological diversity will be avoided or at the least minimised and remedied;
- Pollution and degradation of the environment will be avoided or at the least minimised and remedied;
- Disturbance of archaeological/historical/cultural sites or artefacts will be avoided or at the least minimised and remedied;
- A risk-averse and cautious approach will be applied, taking into account the limits of current knowledge about the consequences of decisions and actions;
- Responsibility for the environmental health and safety consequences of a policy, programme, project, product, process, service or activity exists throughout its life cycle;
- The environmental impacts of activities, including disadvantages and benefits, must be considered, assessed and evaluated, and decisions must be taken accordingly;
- Decisions must be taken in an open and transparent manner, and access to information must be provided in accordance with the legislation;
- The costs of remedying negative environmental effects and of preventing, controlling or minimising further effects must be paid for by those responsible for harming the environment;
- Operations management practices shall be reviewed and improved on a regular basis, through external audits and with reference to international 'best practice'.

Where development is deemed necessary, the Department of Environmental Affairs adopts the following strategy for mitigating the impacts on biodiversity, in accordance with Environmental Impact Assessment Regulations:

- *Operational Management Plan.* The Operational Management Plan (OMP) must detail the operational criteria that apply to any proposed development or activity (e.g. the minimum requirements with regards to the management and control of waste, water, energy, guiding etc.) and must be agreed to by senior management. The OMP is used as the foundation on which the inspecting and auditing of the activity/activities is undertaken. An independent Environmental Control Officer (ECO) must be appointed to oversee compliance and must compile an inspection checklist and an audit checklist.
- *Environmental Impact Assessment.* If development, decommissioning or alteration of infrastructure is proposed for the PEIs, then an EIA must be conducted by a suitably qualified independent consultant.

The EIA must comparatively assess all potential sites for the activity, the proposed scale and type of development to take place, and potential impacts from the development as well as from activities that shall take place on site. The EIA must propose suitable mitigation measures. The EIA process must be managed and reviewed by a suitably qualified internal person, and forwarded to the competent authority for approval prior to being submitted to the DEA Directorate: Integrated Environmental Authorisations for a Record of Decision.

- *Environmental Management Plan.* To ensure that the mitigation measures identified in the EIA are implemented, the EIA Consultants must compile an Environmental Management Plan (EMP) for the construction contractors for any and all developments. Where the development or activity is of a non-permanent nature, then the Consultants must be required to contextualize the Operational Management Plan to ensure it is appropriate (e.g. includes suitable rehabilitation measures for the landscape). A suitably qualified internal person must approve the contents of the EMP prior to the issuing of a tender. The EMP must form part of the tender documentation.
- *Enforcement.* The duties of the ECO include ensuring enforcement and compliance with the EMP, OMP, Codes of Conduct, Legislation, and all other applicable norms and standards. The ECO must submit audit reports to the Department of Environmental Affairs once a month and/or at completion of the project.

### ***2.2.10 Waste management***

The main principle of the waste management policy for the Prince Edward Islands Special Nature Reserve is to ensure a waste-free and healthy environment. The objectives of the waste and sewage disposal policy are:

- To ensure that activities at the Prince Edward Islands do not lead to unnecessary, unsightly or irreversible pollution, marring of the environment, or to the build up of waste or debris on the islands;
- To reduce the amount of waste which is introduced to, produced at or disposed of on or around the Prince Edward Islands as far as possible;
- To consider the following in the planning and execution of activities: waste storage, disposal and removal from the Prince Edward Islands as well as recycling and source reduction.

In general, waste generated at the Prince Edward Islands must be disposed of in a way which does not modify or endanger the natural ecosystems or species. Therefore on Marion Island, non-biodegradable and non-burnable waste is returned to South Africa and disposed of at a permitted waste site in accordance with South African integrated waste management policy and legislation. No waste may be disposed of on Prince Edward Island. Refer to Chapter 7 for further details on waste management practices.

### ***2.2.11 Fuel spill management***

Major fuel spills at the Prince Edward Islands are likely to be a serious prospect because of the abundance of wildlife on the islands, the isolation of the islands, and the severe weather and sea conditions. Any deliberate discharge of fuels from vessels or from the Marion Island research base or field huts is thus prohibited, and every reasonable effort shall be made to prevent accidental spills. In the event of a spill occurring, the situation shall be managed and the impacts minimised and contained as far as possible, such that ecosystem functioning and species populations are returned to normal as soon as possible. Guiding principles are to:

- Maintain the supply vessel, research base and field huts and associated waste systems so that the risks of spills are minimised or eliminated;
- Take due care during refuelling activities at the islands;
- Maintain fuel storage facilities and pipelines to a high standard;
- Develop monitoring systems to detect the occurrence of and mitigate the impact of fuel spills;

- Develop, regularly review, and implement fuel spill contingency plans;
- Ensure readiness of personnel to respond appropriately and effectively to fuel spills;
- Minimise the spread of pollution within and between wildlife colonies;
- Prohibit the return of affected individual animals to the mainland, and the release of rehabilitated individuals to the islands (to prevent the transfer of diseases);
- Establish synergistic relationships with relevant individuals and agencies to develop and implement the fuel spill management policy.

For details of implementation of this policy, refer to Chapter 5, section 5.4.

### *2.2.12 Biodiversity management*

The principle of adaptive management of biodiversity is adopted for the Prince Edward Islands Special Nature Reserve, with the goal of securing ecosystem integrity.

Towards this goal, furthermore, the Department of Environmental Affairs undertakes to ensure that environmental management at the Prince Edward Islands shall be integrated, since all elements of the environment are linked and interrelated. It shall take into account the effects of decisions on all aspects of the environment and all people in the environment by pursuing the selection of the best practicable environmental option.

Furthermore, the Directorate shall encourage, facilitate and conduct conservation management-orientated research, and seek the advice and assistance of stakeholders and other experts as needed. Participation by stakeholders shall be promoted through timely and full disclosure of relevant and appropriate information, and by providing feedback on the outcome of the process to stakeholders and demonstrating how their inputs have been considered in the decision-making process. In order to facilitate open and transparent management practices and scientifically informed decisions about research on and management of the Prince Edward Islands, all documentation shall be centralised and regularly updated.

### *2.2.13 Human disturbance management*

Human activities at the Prince Edward Islands shall be managed so that they cause minimum adverse impacts on the fauna, flora and natural features of the islands.

- No person on the Prince Edward Islands or within 12 nautical miles of the coasts shall be allowed to wilfully destroy, harm, molest, interfere with or disrupt any native terrestrial or marine animal or plant, or native animal or plant community;
- The collecting of scientific specimens and the removal of alien biota are allowed by permit only (see Chapter 5, section 5.7);
- Persons ashore must adhere to the Prince Edward Islands Code of Conduct regarding Marine Mammals and Birds (Chapter 5, Box 5-3);
- The use of mechanised transport (particularly helicopters and boats) on and around the islands shall be strictly regulated and monitored; activities shall be timed to avoid periods when animals are confined to breeding colonies, so that disturbance is reduced;
- Aircraft operations must follow the Guidelines for the Use of Aircraft at the Prince Edward Islands (Chapter 5, Box 5-5), and vessels and boats must follow the International Association of Antarctic Tour Operators (IAATO) Marine Mammal Watching Guidelines;
- Light pollution at and near the islands must be managed so as to minimise the risk of bird strikes (Chapter 5, section 5.4).

### 2.2.14 Alien and invasive species management

Invasive alien species are one of the greatest threats to the biodiversity of the PEIs. Because of their impacts and the subsequent need for remediation, they impose a substantial economic burden on the management of the islands. The policy for the Prince Edward Island Special Nature Reserve is to prevent introductions of alien species to the islands as far as possible, and to control further spread of alien species on the islands. Where possible, alien species shall be eradicated and previously invaded sites be restored in order for these sites to resemble or form part of the functioning landscape and ecosystem. Control, eradication and restoration should be done without undue disturbance or damage to indigenous species and natural features. The aim of this policy is to minimise the impact of alien species on indigenous biodiversity and to maintain ecosystem integrity.

This will be achieved by:

- Developing a long-term strategy for the management of invasive alien species, by evaluating the current and projected future threat, by addressing organisational and infrastructural capacity, and by being informed by advances in invasion ecology;
- Anticipating and evaluating risks and pathways of invasion, and developing effective mechanisms to monitor, manage or mitigate these;
- Ensuring the development and implementation of integrated control strategies, so that both rapid response and long-term goals are achieved;
- Promoting and developing a coordinated research programme in order to develop a clearer understanding of the dynamics and impacts of alien species invasions;
- Developing awareness programmes to inform and educate expeditioners to the Prince Edward Islands on the consequences of invasive alien species.

For further details on the implementation of this policy, refer to Chapter 5, sections 5.2 and 5.3.

### 2.2.15 Wildlife disease management

Diseases can be introduced to animal colonies by means of natural migratory processes or by humans through contaminated food or gear, and can result in large scale mortalities. The policy for the Prince Edward Islands Special Nature Reserve is thus to minimise human-mediated introduction and spread of diseases amongst seal, seabird and shorebirds. Guiding principles are to:

- Maintain the natural fluxes of indigenous diseases as a component of biodiversity;
- Prevent the introduction and/or limit the impact of alien diseases;
- Minimise the human-mediated spread of disease within or between wildlife colonies or individuals at the Prince Edward Islands, and between animals at the Prince Edward Islands and animals elsewhere;
- Develop monitoring systems to prevent the introduction, detect the occurrence of and mitigate the impact of alien diseases;
- Support relevant research into wildlife diseases;
- Develop, regularly review, and implement disease contingency plans;
- Ensure readiness of personnel to respond appropriately and effectively to disease outbreaks;
- Prohibit the return of affected individual animals to the mainland, and the release of rehabilitated individuals to the Prince Edward Islands;
- Prohibit translocations or reintroductions of any animals to Marion Island or to Prince Edward Island, unless this is part of an approved management plan that has been subjected to a thorough risk assessment and environmental impact assessment procedure;
- Adhere to non-interference at the level of the individual animal, unless this benefits a population of conservation concern (the prevention and/or treatment of disease in individual animals may occur during capture or in captive confinement or to mitigate the effects of human induced disease events);

- Establish synergistic relationships with relevant individuals and agencies to develop and implement the disease management policy.

For further details on the implementation of this policy, refer to Chapter 5, section 5.5.

### *2.2.16 Site rehabilitation*

Where there has been human-induced transformation or degradation of sites at the Prince Edward Islands, the Department of Environmental Affairs shall consider the rehabilitation of these sites so that their natural systems will, in the long term, return to a functional and sustainable state. (Examples of human-induced transformation include the invasion of vegetation communities by alien species, and changes in the chemical composition of soil through the accumulation of pollutants.) This will be achieved by:

- Identifying sites that require rehabilitation and ranking these according to their level of importance;
- Identifying the processes that have led to site degradation;
- Determining realistic goals for restoration;
- Developing methods and practical techniques to reverse or ameliorate the degradation, giving preference to natural rehabilitation where this is possible;
- Developing easily observable measures of success to monitor and assess progress;
- Adjusting procedures where necessary.

### *2.2.17 Protection of species of conservation concern*

South Africa supports the International Union for Conservation of Nature's (IUCN) Species Survival Commission in its endeavours to prevent human-induced species extinctions. The Department of Environmental Affairs will therefore strive to prevent extinction of species at the Prince Edward Islands that are listed as globally or regionally threatened or Near Threatened by the IUCN. Furthermore, the Department undertakes to protect and conserve those species that are listed in the Policy for Seals, Seabirds and Shorebirds in South Africa and that breed, pass through or otherwise use the Prince Edward Islands or the territorial waters and the exclusive economic zone of the islands. This will be achieved by:

- Working with other conservation initiatives to secure and strengthen the future of such species over their historic distribution ranges – especially, fulfilling South Africa's commitments to the Agreement on the Conservation of Albatrosses and Petrels and the Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (see Chapter 3);
- Putting in place appropriate monitoring and conservation efforts for threatened and Near Threatened species, and for other species for which no formal red-listing has been done but for which experts have recommended conservation action;
- Supporting research that involves accurate long-term monitoring of fauna and flora populations, including species that migrate through South African waters in the vicinity of the Prince Edward Islands, and supporting the monitoring of ecosystem changes that may affect these populations;
- Establishing a realistic prioritization framework in order to allocate resources sensibly and according to priorities;
- Implementing and regularly reviewing Biodiversity Management Plans for priority species;
- Taking into account IUCN listings during the permitting process for the removal of any organic or inorganic material or species for zoological and botanical gardens or other captive breeding facilities.

Note, however, that except in crucial instances for the survival of globally critically endangered species, management for system integrity and biodiversity shall take precedence over species management.

For further details on this policy, refer to Chapter 5, section 5.6.

### ***2.2.18 Historical resource conservation***

The historical resource management policy is to record and preserve sites and objects at the Prince Edward Islands Special Nature Reserve that have cultural, historical and palaeontological significance. This includes all artefacts associated with the 1948 annexation of the islands (including all things associated with that year). Historical resource management shall comprise:

- Identifying, describing and assessing historical sites and objects at the islands; priority should be given to a full survey of the historical sites and artefacts of Prince Edward Islands;
- Drafting of conservation management plans for specific historical resources that have high value, or are at risk, to ensure their management is in line with best practice;
- Seeking and facilitating cooperation with the South African Heritage Resources Agency, Heritage Western Cape, Iziko Museums and other stakeholders and specialists;
- Only authorising historical, archaeological and palaeontological research at the Prince Edward Islands when this research does not adversely affect natural ecosystems and/or biota;
- Maintain the norms and standards and procedures of the profession in historical research and conservation;
- When planning activities such as developments, take into account and mitigate for negative impacts on historical sites and objects;
- Develop and interpret historical resources so that they contribute to awareness and education.

For details on the implementation of this policy, refer to Chapter 6.

### ***2.2.19 Research<sup>3</sup>***

The species and ecosystems of the Prince Edward Islands are in many ways unique and represent one of the few such systems globally. The islands and surrounding ocean have been the focus of a substantial scientific literature over more than 50 years – from a scientific perspective, few South African sites have enjoyed this much research attention. There is much value to be gained from the remarkable knowledge base that has been accrued, the scientific insights derived from this work, the potential for the islands to inform sub-Antarctic conservation policy and to provide the necessary understanding of natural processes and human influences in and around the islands, and the use of the islands as ‘laboratories’ for studying the responses of terrestrial and marine ecosystems to environmental change. Meteorological, biological and other monitoring activities provide important links to international programmes.

The Department of Environmental Affairs undertakes to encourage and facilitate high quality research to enhance our understanding of the natural environment and history of the Prince Edward Islands, and to contribute to regional and global conservation. Additionally, DEA aims to provide facilities and services for the continued support of scientific research, monitoring and management programmes at the islands. It undertakes to instil professionalism in the management of the research base and research activities. The policy serves to ensure that research is conducted so as to:

- Assure protection of natural ecosystems and mitigate against lasting changes in indigenous wildlife populations or community relationships;
- Ensure that wildlife populations and historic resources remain intact and unmodified;

<sup>3</sup> Chown, S.L. & Froneman, P.W. (eds). (2008) *The Prince Edward Archipelago: Land-Sea Interactions in a Changing Ecosystem*. Sun Media, Stellenbosch.

- Arrange, facilitate and support a programme of scientific research necessary for better management of the islands;
- Consider likely impacts of research work and describe mitigating measures;
- Ensure that research on animals is conducted humanely (see policy on animal experimentation);
- Avoid conflict with essential management operations;
- Prohibit the collection of specimens except where this is specifically approved and justified as part of scientific research or necessary for management purposes;
- Carry out the NEMBA risk assessment before issuing permits for any organisms or samples to be returned to South Africa.

Furthermore, the Department of Environmental Affairs supports the vision and mission of the Antarctic Research Strategy for South Africa (ARESSA). The vision of ARESSA is to create a demographically balanced Antarctic research programme that strives for global competitiveness, links to other African countries and interdisciplinary research. ARESSA's mission is:

- To develop a national research programme that will produce maximum human capital, innovation and economic growth;
- To increase competitiveness within the context of globalisation;
- To rapidly balance the demographics of researchers, staff and students;
- To create a coordinated interactive effort towards public visibility.

For further details on implementation of the research policy, refer to Chapter 5, section 5.7.

#### ***2.2.20 Animal experimentation***

Research on vertebrate animals at the Prince Edward Islands shall be guided by the South Africa Medical Research Council's ethics policy on animal experimentation, i.e.:

- The moral dilemma posed by the use of sentient organisms (i.e. organisms with a sensory nervous system) for research, teaching and testing is recognised;
- Support is only given to studies which promise to contribute to the understanding of biology and environmental principles and to the acquisition of knowledge that can reasonably be expected to benefit humans, animals or the environment;
- Animals may only be used when the researcher's best efforts to find a non-sentient alternative have been unsuccessful;
- Optimal standards of animal health and care must be observed to provide good quality results that enhance credibility and reproducibility;
- The "Three R" principles of "Replacement, Reduction and Refinement" must be adhered to in the planning and conduct of animal studies. This implies using the most humane methods on the smallest number of animals that will permit valid scientific information to be acquired;
- The importance of maintaining public confidence in the mechanisms and processes used to ensure necessary humane and humane animal use is recognised;
- Laboratory animals are protected by law in South Africa and their use for education, testing and research must be justified.

In addition, the impact of research on the physical, biological and spatial environment shall be taken into account.

#### ***2.2.21 Environmental awareness and education***

The Department of Environmental Affairs recognises that general environmental awareness among expeditioners to the Prince Edward Islands, and personnel involved with the management of the Special Nature Reserve, is

imperative for the conservation of the islands. It also recognises that on a broader front, education of the general public of South Africa about the Prince Edward Islands can play an important role in furthering an ethic for sustainable environmental practices. Through its environmental awareness and education policy, Department of Environmental Affairs undertakes to:

- Promote the value of the Prince Edward Islands as a part of the world's natural and historical heritage of regional and global significance;
- Raise public awareness, appreciation and support for the reserve and its role in the Southern Ocean as far as possible through exhibitions, books, popular and scientific articles and other means;
- Promote the use of the reserve as a 'living laboratory' to emerging researchers, while allowing access specifically to previously marginalized people;
- Encourage emerging and established researchers to engage in and contribute towards environmental management issues;
- Enhance the experience of expeditioners to the reserve through environmental interpretation and education;
- Educate expeditioners to the reserve about environmental issues at the islands, so that expeditioners are committed and enabled to contribute to the islands' conservation;
- Build environmental management capacity within Directorate: Southern Oceans and Antarctic Support;
- Integrate environmental education into all training of personnel involved with the South African National Antarctic Programme; and enhance environmental literacy of personnel.

For more information on the implementation of this policy, refer to Chapter 5, section 4.5.

### *2.2.22 Filming*

The Department of Environmental Affairs acknowledges that the public of South Africa must have an opportunity to experience the special attributes of the Prince Edward Islands through a public awareness programme. However, the filming policy must coincide with the aims of a Special Nature Reserve and the management policies of the Prince Edward Islands. Filming will therefore only be allowed under very specific conditions and must be well motivated according to the management objectives of the islands. Refer to Chapter 4 (section 4.8) for the comprehensive filming policy.