



**Collecting, managing and  
improving the collection of  
Sustainable Development data in  
the minerals sector - the UK  
experience**

**Jerry McLaughlin QPA**

## Scope of QPA

- 800 quarries: rock, sand & gravel, silica sand
- 1,400 plants:
  - Ready-mix concrete plants
  - Mortar plants
  - Asphalt plants
  - Lime manufacturing plants
  - Aggregate recycling plants
- Depots
- Wharves
- Ships and other forms of transport

# Scope of QPA

- 90% production of UK aggregates ( 5 UK companies account for 75% of market)
- 95% of all asphalt and ready-mixed concrete
- High percentages of industrial lime, agricultural lime, mortar, slag, recycled materials and silica sand
- Various manufacturers of quarry plant and equipment

## Stakeholder survey (2003)

- Detailed survey of 100 stakeholders to review perceptions of the industry and the QPA, carried out by a specialist market research company.
- Results included a mean score of 6.72 that the industry is responsible, and 8.48 that it is essential
- Environmental performance and sustainable development are top two issues that will shape the future of the industry over the next five years

# QPA approach to Sustainable Development (SD)

- Recognise SD as key issue for industry stakeholders
- Value in presenting all available SD information in one document
- Demonstrate industry commitment to SD
- Highlight progress already made
- Provides holistic umbrella for all QPA products

# QPA Core Values

## Social Progress

Health & Safety

Competence

Working with the Community

Partnerships with Stakeholders

Heritage

## Environmental Protection

Natural Environment

Restoration of Land

Biodiversity and geodiversity

## Natural Resources

Resource Conservation

## Economic Prosperity

Providing Essential Materials

Employment

# Social Progress, Health and Safety





# QPA Indicators

- **Health & Safety:** injuries, public safety
- **Competence:** qualifications
- **Working with the Community:** liaison groups, educational visits, public open days, complaints
- **Partnerships with Stakeholders**
- **Heritage:** archaeological investigations

# Environment, Natural Resources



# QPA Indicators

- **Natural Environment:** environmental management systems ( ISO 14001) convictions, waste, transport
- **Restoration of Land:** land in use, land prepared for quarrying, land restored, trees, hedges planted
- **Biodiversity and Geodiversity:** designated sites, conditions of sites, impacts on habitats
- **Resource Conservation:** mains water, electricity, gas oil, diesel, heavy and light fuel oil, natural gas, reprocessed fuel oil, volumes of recycled aggregates, proportion in aggregates markets

# Economic



# QPA Indicators

- **Employment** : direct, indirect employment
- **Providing Essential Materials**: production of aggregates and quarry products, contribution to construction output and the Economy, numbers of sites

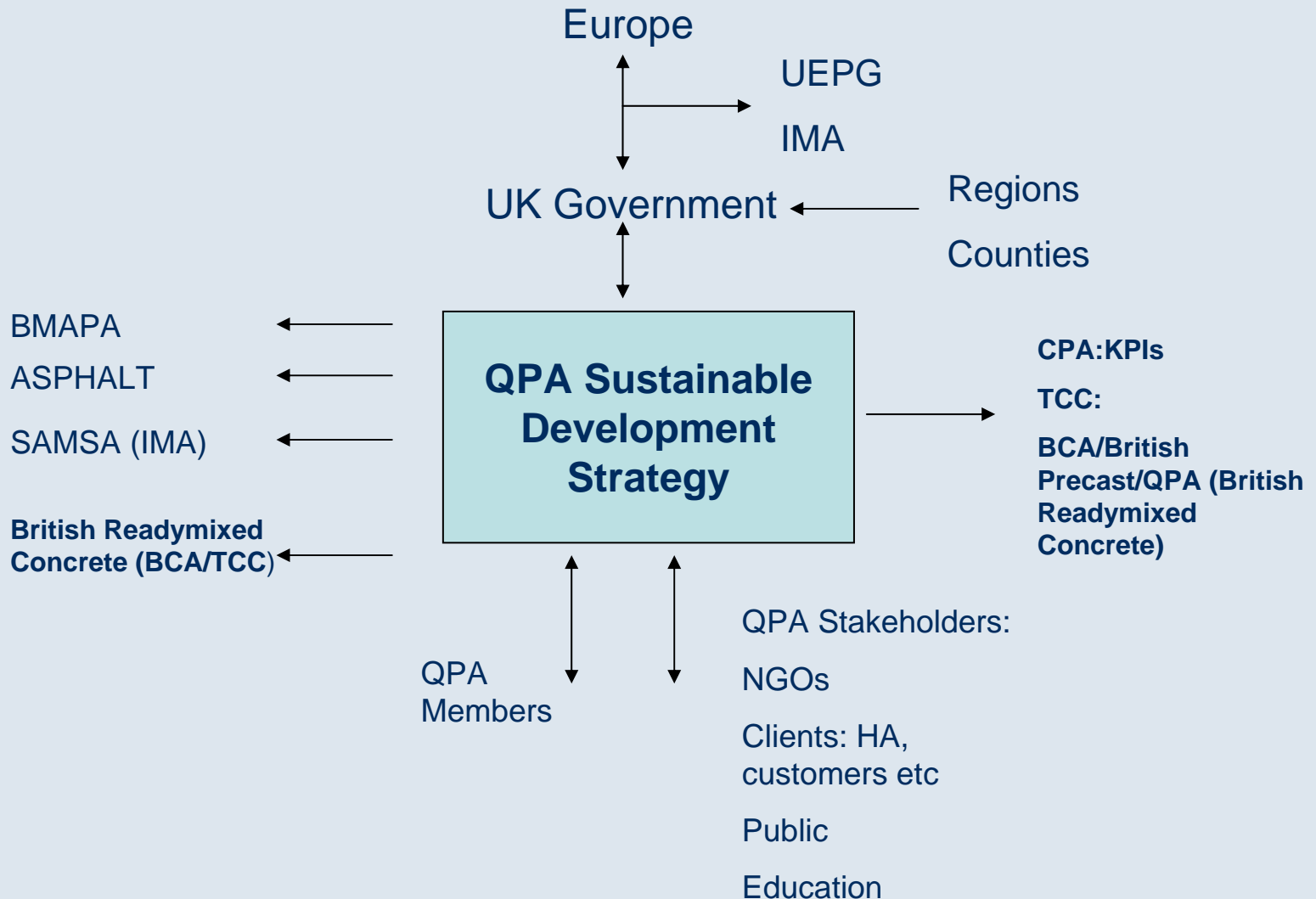
# Progress

- Core values – agreed by QPA member companies
- SD Strategy published March 2005
- First Annual SD Report published March 2006 (2004 data)
- 64% coverage on primary aggregates
- 39 companies contributing
- Second Update SD Report published December 2006 (2005 data)
- 71% coverage of primary aggregates
- Third SD Report published in October 2007(2006 data)
- Current review of data requirements
- Annual SD reports will be published in June from 2008



**QPA  
First Report  
March 2006**

# QPA Sustainable Development Strategy





## The Future

- Responses from all of our large members
- Need to improve SME response
- Second Report covers 71% of UK aggregates sales, included data from 25 companies
- Third Report similar coverage to second report, greater focus on carbon emissions
- At some point we will have to consider targets to improve performance, possible external auditing of data
- Continuing issue of quality of data

## The Future

- Collaborative projects with other organisations – Government, Non Government Organisations?
- Government initiatives – environmental profiling, sustainable purchasing
- EU initiatives via European trade associations
- BMAPA strategy for marine aggregates

# Practical issues about data collection

- Maintain the flow of data from existing contributors – make sure that the outputs are useful for contributing companies as well as other stakeholders
- Make sure company Chief Executives support the policy of collecting SD data

# Practical issues about data collection

- Help all companies to supply data, with guidance and support
- Make sure survey forms include sufficient guidance
- Companies without specialist staff may need more help

# Practical issues about data collection

- Make sure data supply is as easy as possible
- Electronic data supply system
- Paper survey forms
- Give contributing companies as much notice as possible of data required
- Set reasonable deadlines

## Practical issues about data collection

- Avoid duplication of questionnaires – use existing data where possible
- 50% of data in QPA reports comes from the SD survey , the rest from other sources

## Practical issues about data collection

- Many companies will not be able to supply all data
- Prioritise most important indicators
- For example, data on production, employment, health and safety, land use, recycling, energy use and carbon emissions
- Focus on quality of data, not quantity
- Talk to stakeholders such as Government and agencies about data

[www.qpa.org](http://www.qpa.org)