

# INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF SPECIALLY PROTECTED COASTAL AREAS IN MALTA

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**Report for the period January to June 2006, on activities carried out by The Gaia Foundation as  
Project Manager of Ghajn Tuffieha.**

THE GAIA FOUNDATION  
July 2006

## CONTENTS

<b>1</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>BACKGROUND</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>PROJECT OVERVIEW</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>ACHIEVEMENTS AND MILESTONES</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>PROJECT ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>5</b>
5.1	PROJECT ELYSIUM – Biodiversity and ecological restoration of habitats	5
5.2	PROJECT OLYMPUS – Coastal Conservation	12
5.3	PROJECT POSEIDON – Marine Conservation and Safety	15
5.4	PROJECT PHOENIX – Waste Management	17
5.5	PROJECT APOLLO – Operation of a Visitor Centre and Visitor Information	19
5.6	PROJECT HERMES – Dissemination of information	20
5.7	Project Funding	26

## APPENDICES

Annex 1:	Propagation of plants at the Elysium Nursery, Jan-June 2006
Annex 2:	Photo Dossier
Annex 3:	Footpath Rationalisation
Annex 4:	Habitat Restoration Plan
Annex 5:	Patrols
Annex 6:	Press Articles

## 1 Introduction

Project Gaia is the name given to The Gaia Foundation's work on the integrated management of specially protected areas in the Maltese Islands. The project covered a number of initiatives in the management of 2 sites between 2000 and 2003, namely Ghajn Tuffieha and Ramla, Gozo. The management agreements for the sites expired in July and December 2003 respectively. A renewed contract for Ghajn Tuffieha was signed in June 2004. A renewal of the Ramla contract was signed in December 2005.

## 2 Background

The management of Ghajn Tuffieha and Ramla formed part of a LIFE project that included the management of Ramla Bay, Gozo, namely TCY99/M/95, which fell under the direction of IcoD and the management of The Gaia Foundation. This project commenced in 2000 and was brought to a successful conclusion in July 2003. The management of both sites has continued at a steady pace by the Gaia Foundation.

## 3 Project Overview

Although the project is of an integrated coastal management nature, the various important integrated arms have been given different project names, in order to better focus and understand the complexity and uniqueness of each arm. The main arms of this project which relate to the management of Ghajn Tuffieha are as follows:

Project Elysium	Biodiversity and ecological restoration of habitats
Project Olympus	coastal conservation, enforcement, monitoring
Project Apollo	operation of a visitor centre
Project Hermes	dissemination of information
Project Persephone	sustainable agriculture

Most of the work carried out so far in project Persephone has been the setting up of a pilot project for local farmers to follow in an attempt to secure the most sustainable farming practices in the area, thus reducing the pollution/runoff problems that may affect the site. On the advise of the NPU, the work on this pilot project is not included in this report, but is available as a separate report. Specific issues related to pollution and runoff, which are directly related to the site management, are however included in the Project Poseidon report on marine conservation.

## 4 Achievements and Milestones

A number of important achievements and milestones were reached in this project period. These included:

### January

- Start of the phasing out of non-native and inappropriate plants at Ghajn Tuffieha
- Submission of new signage and footpath rationalisation plan to Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA) as part of the Management Plan

### February

- Planting of Esparto Grass (*Lygeum spartum*) at Ghajn Tuffieha, Malta
- Propagation of Esparto Grass in Elysium Tree Nursery

### March

- Submission of revised signage and footpath rationalisation plan to MEPA as part of the management plan
- Planting of Esparto Grass (*Lygeum spartum*) at Ghajn Tuffieha, Malta

### April

- Attendance at 3-day-seminar about Management Plan of Natura 2000 sites (organised by MEPA in cooperation with European experts)
- Design of a new Welcome board for the protected area of Ghajn Tuffieha and submission to MEPA

### May

- Design of a new Welcome panel for the Visitor Centre

### June

- Participation in the national ecological festival Echofest, 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> June in Sliema with an information stall
- Participation in the Worldfest, 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> June in Valletta with an information stall
- Organisation of Gaia's annual holistic Festival Gaiafest 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> June with seminars, talks, workshops, information stalls, NGOs, live bands etc.
- Organisation of ecological workshops for US-students participating in the People to People programme

## 5 Project Activities

Activities projected for Jan - June 2006 <sup>1</sup>	Project Report Period Jan – June 2006	Projected activities July – December 2006	Short term activities 2006 – 2007 <sup>2</sup>
<b>5.1 PROJECT ELYSIUM – Biodiversity and ecological restoration of habitats</b>			
<p><b>Conservation Order:</b>                      “A. Restoration                      3. Existing rubble walls shall be restored using traditional materials and methods... New rubble walls may be constructed where necessary, except on the clay slopes and in Level 1 areas. Such new rubble walls shall be the subject of a development application and supported by scientific reports evaluating any possible impact of their construction.                      D. Further Management                      1. A number of existing footpaths need to be rationalised using appropriate signage, eventually creating a Nature Trail, whilst others should be closed and re-vegetated. Areas within footpaths that constitute a danger to passers-by should be rehabilitated using appropriate material. Within the first six months after the issue of this order, a plan for the establishment of a nature trail shall be devised by the site managers and submitted for approval by the Planning Authority and the Environment Protection Department.                      2. Alien trees, shrubs and plants present on site shall be removed and eventually replaced with native ones. Esparto grass and Tamarix africana should be widely planted, especially on the clay slopes, in order to reduce erosion. All plantations shall be subject to a landscaping and habitat restoration plan, devised within six months of the issue of this order and approved by the Planning Authority and the Environment Protection Department.                      3. The landscaping scheme shall include a phasing out and replacement programme for all alien trees, shrubs and plants, as well as non-alien species that may be inappropriately sited from an ecological point of view.                      5. In addition to the above, the site managers shall, within three months of the issue of this order, publish a set of rules which any visitor to the area should observe, based on the above and which shall be made available to the public.”</p> <p><b>Ghajn Tuffieha Management Contract:</b>                      “2.3 ... the management of Ghajn Tuffieha is taken to include:                      (i) the conservation, management and monitoring of the biological diversity of the area in line with the provisions of relevant policies and legislation;                      (ii) the rehabilitation of degraded areas within the area;                      (iii) the establishment of a series of measures required to maintain or restore the natural habitats and the population of species of wild fauna and flora at a favourable conservation status”</p>			
<b>1. Detailed mapping of habitats</b>			
<i>Creation of habitat maps of the managed areas of Ghajn Tuffieha and submission to NPL MEPA</i>	<b>Main Activities carried out</b> MEPA requested as well habitat and	-	-

<sup>1</sup> According to Activities Report July to December 2005

<sup>2</sup> According to Management Plan for Ghajn Tuffieha, October 2005

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<i>and submission to NPU, MEPA.”</i>	phase maps in which the proposed measures will be made visual. Preparations for the creation of habitat maps included the installation of necessary computer programmes, production of appropriate base maps with orthophotos, as well as the gathering of information about the classification of Maltese plant communities. In May 2006 the following documents (see annex 4) were submitted to MEPA: - Habitat Restoration Plan - Map 1: Existing habitats - Map 2: Human intervention (former plantations) - Map 3: Proposed Measures (2006 onwards) - Map 4: Phases (time frames)		
<b>2. Inventory of species present, listing of threatened species</b>			
<i>“Commission of ecological surveys of Flora and Fauna for Ghajn Tuffieha.”</i>	1. Commission of inventory plant species list of Ghajn Tuffieha	-	- Update inventory of species in the area
<b>3. Assessment of habitat degradation</b>			
<i>“Commission of update of geological surveys, especially concerning the safety matters at Ghajn Tuffieha Tower.”</i>	-	1. Commission of update of geological surveys, especially concerning the safety matters at Ghajn Tuffieha Tower (increasing fault)	- Commission of update of geological surveys, especially concerning the safety matters at Ghajn Tuffieha Tower - On going study and monitoring of geological movements

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<b>4. Tree Nursery &amp; Habitat restoration of degraded areas</b>			
<p>“1. Consulting Ministry for Rural Affairs and Environment about future cooperation in tree planting projects (in which ongoing or future tree planting projects the Gaia Foundation can participate e.g. by providing indigenous trees and shrubs).</p> <p>2. Extending assortment of Tree Nursery by ongoing trials for the propagation of indigenous species like <i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>, <i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>, <i>Populus alba</i>, <i>Darniella melitensis</i> etc.</p> <p>3. Ongoing removal of alien species and phasing out of inappropriate non-alien species</p> <p>4. Liaising with NPU for the continuation of tree planting in accordance with restoration plans.</p> <p>5. Regular irrigation of planted species in order to increase their chances of survival and growth during the hot season.”</p>	<p><b>Main Activities carried out</b></p> <p>1. Work at the nursery focused on the sowing, sticking and repotting of various indigenous and endemic species, detailed in the annexed document 1. The propagation of <i>Darniella melitensis</i>, <i>Pistacia lentiscus</i>, <i>Populus alba</i>, <i>Salix pedicellata</i>, <i>Euphorbia melitensis</i>, and <i>Cistus creticus</i> has been tried successfully. The assortment of the nursery has been extended by this species. Soil was also moved for repotting, weeding and cleaning was carried out throughout the nursery.</p> <p>2. In order to raise the success rates and the quality of the produced plants, other tree nurseries in Malta were consulted. Special germinating compost is now being used much more extensively, while the Sant Antnin compost is no longer used for the more delicate plants. This has increased the budget for compost. The increased success rate has been substantial.</p> <p>3. An official application for the permission to propagate Wild Thyme (<i>Thymus capitatus</i>), which is protected by National Legislation, was sent to the Malta Environment and Planning Authority and has been</p>	<p>1. Intensive propagation of Esparto Grass (<i>Lygeum spartum</i>) and Golden Samphire (<i>Inula crithmoides</i>) by sowing and division for planting at Ghajn Tuffieha clay slopes.</p> <p>2. Start with removal of Prickly Pear and Acacia in clay slopes.</p> <p>3. Monitoring of acacia removal and prevention of re growth.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Development of tree nursery</li> <li>- Extend assortment of Tree Nursery with more native plants difficult to propagate.</li> <li>- Extend capacity of Nursery in order to provide trees and shrubs for governmental afforestation projects (e.g. Trees for People, Revegetation of Landfill Sites)</li> <li>- Ongoing Afforestation projects</li> <li>- Removal of alien species (e.g. Acacia) introduced through former afforestation projects and replacing with more suitable vegetation for clay slopes</li> <li>- Planting of selected species along clay slopes, Golden Bay Headland in accordance with the habitat restoration plans submitted with the Management Plan and (after approval by MEPA)</li> <li>- Plant selected species along footpaths and around car park in order to further landscape design</li> </ul>

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	<p>approved.</p> <p>4. Esparto Grass (<i>Lygeum spartum</i>) has been planted at Ghajn Tuffieha in order to stabilize the clay slopes and to rehabilitate some wild footpaths.</p> <p>5. The non-alien species Maltese Cliff-Orache (<i>Cremonophyton lanfrancoi</i>), which is inappropriately sited in the Golden Bay Headland, is being phased out. The chosen method was the planting of the native shrubs <i>Inula crithmoides</i> and <i>Atriplex halimus</i> close to the <i>Cremonophyton</i>.</p> <p>Altogether 77 <i>Atriplex halimus</i>, 32 <i>Lygeum spartum</i> and 44 <i>Inula crithmoides</i> have been planted around Ghajn Tuffieha.</p> <p>6. The trees and shrubs planted at Ghajn Tuffieha in former years were irrigated by drip from the water sources at the Nursery from April onwards. Areas irrigated were the Golden Bay Headland, Hotba I-Bajda and the clay slopes above Ghajn Tuffieha Bay. The sites were irrigated twice a week. Despite the fairly extensive water storage facilities situated at the Elysium Centre, water was required from outside sources to maintain irrigation from the beginning of June. Saplings are irrigated for at least 2 years.</p>		

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<b>5. Rationalisation of footpath system</b>			
<p><i>“1. Submission of a plan showing the rationalization of footpaths, the planned signage and the Nature Trail to NPU, MEPA</i></p> <p><i>2. upon approval by MEPA implementation of footpath plan (installation of signs, planting etc.)”</i></p>	<p><b>Main Activities carried out</b></p> <p>1. As part of the updated Management Plan for Ghajn Tuffieha MEPA asked for a footpath and signage plan for the area, which was drawn up in January. In this plan the Gaia Foundation proposed measures to rationalise and reduce the network of footpaths, which is criss-crossing the protected area as well as new or updated signs, which will be installed in the area. In this project period the Gaia Foundation started with the rationalization of the footpaths by putting stones along the planted areas to mark the footpaths clearly for ramblers and to avoid stepping on the seedlings. The following documents were submitted to MEPA (see annex 3):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Rationalisation of Footpaths, Nature Trail, Signage Plan (Draft)</li> <li>- Map: Footpaths Plan (drawn in Dec 05)</li> <li>- Map: Nature Trail &amp; Signage Plan (drawn in Dec 05)</li> <li>- Map: Footpaths Plan Area 1 (drawn in Jan 06)</li> <li>- Map: Footpaths Plan Area 1 (drawn in Feb 06)</li> <li>- Map: Footpaths Plan (updated in</li> </ul>	<p>1. Installation of signs b), c), e)</p> <p>2. Closing off of unnecessary footpaths, planting in Autumn of Esparto Grass and Golden Samphire, and possibly Shrubby Orache (<i>Atriplex halimus</i>) in limited amounts, subject to NPU approval.</p>	<p><b>Ongoing work on foot path system</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Further upgrading of information signs relating to the site and footpaths.</li> <li>- Promotion of footpath system on the website and at the Visitor Centre.</li> </ul> <p><b>Development of walks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Planning of mapped routes for short walks on and around site. The walk (to Qarraba and back) will be restricted to the Ghajn Tuffieha clay slopes along the two main existing paths.</li> </ul>

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	<p>March 06)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outline Proposal for the rehabilitation of the main path to Ghajn Tuffieha Bay (May 06)</li> <li>2. The following signs (see photo dossier) have been designed by the Gaia Foundation in order to inform the public about the protected site at Ghajn Tuffieha, the site regulation, safety issues and the footpaths, that should be used:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Danger – Cliff ahead may collapse</li> <li>b) Welcome to Ghajn Tuffieha (still in draft form)</li> <li>c) Nature Trail (engraved in wood)</li> <li>d) Site Regulations</li> <li>e) Protected clay slopes</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
<b>6. Fencing of disturbed sensitive areas</b>			
<p><i>“1. The effectiveness of the signs on site will be checked and improved in order to control the flow of rambblers. 2. The entry of unauthorized vehicles will be reported to NPU, MEPA and action taken.”</i></p>	<p><b>Main Activities carried out</b></p> <p>1. The padlocked steel cables and the bollard system at the car park of Ghajn Tuffieha were checked and maintained. The padlock had to be changed after demolition by vandals.</p>	<p>1. Maintenance of padlocked steel cable and bollard systems. 2. The entry of unauthorized vehicles will be reported to NPU, MEPA and action taken.</p>	<p>Maintenance of padlocked steel cable and bollard system.</p>
<b>7. Stabilisation of clay slopes</b>			
<p><i>“Planting activities will be continued when approved by MEPA”</i></p>	<p><b>Main Activities carried out</b></p> <p>1. Planting of few Esparto Grass on clay slopes in order to stabilise clay slopes and rehabilitate footpaths</p>	<p>1. Extensive Planting of Esparto Grass, and some Golden Samphire on clay slopes in autumn and winter</p>	<p>Planting activities will be continued when approved by MEPA</p>

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<b>8. Access control and restrictions</b>			
<p><i>“1. The work on the footpath rationalization and signage plan will be completed and submitted to MEPA.</i></p> <p><i>2. The effectiveness of the bollards around the car park will be checked and improved in order to control the vehicular access.</i></p> <p><i>3. The cliff edge next to the Ghajn Tuffieha tower is possibly about to collapse in the next few years. To avoid danger, signs will be put in order to inform the visitors about the possible risk. This could be supported by the plantation of Shrubby Orache along this rubble wall making the access to the cliff edge more difficult.</i></p> <p><i>4. Ranger patrols will be overhauled and upgraded, and put into a database”</i></p>	<p><b>Main Activities carried out</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Submission of footpaths rationalisation and signage plan</li> <li>2. Checking and maintenance of bollards</li> <li>3. Design, print and installation of signs on site regulations and safety at Ghajn Tuffieha Tower</li> <li>4. Overhaul of ranger patrols, Preparation of updated patrolling guidelines for ranger, Production of appropriate maps for different patrolling areas to mark exact location of problem encountered by ranger (see annex 5)</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Installation of directional signs (Nature Trail) in order to close off unnecessary footpaths</li> </ol>	<p>Conduct meetings with hunters to ensure correct use of site.</p>
<b>9. Restoration of rubble walls</b>			
<p><i>“1. Inventory of existing rubble walls at the site and their actual state</i></p> <p><i>2. Liaise with MEPA on the development of a rubble wall restoration intervention plan, in terms of the conservation order.”</i></p>	<p>-</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Inventory of existing rubble walls at the site and their actual state</li> <li>2. Liase with MEPA on the development of a rubble wall restoration intervention plan, in terms of the conservation order.</li> </ol>	<p>Continue rubble wall restoration: intact rubble walls help to retain the valuable topsoil, contribute to the typical character of rural areas and offer a habitat for flora and fauna. They also have a historical and architectural importance.</p>

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<b>5.2 PROJECT OLYMPUS – Coastal Conservation</b>			
<p><b>Conservation Order:</b></p> <p>“B. Regulation of Activities: Activities that contribute to the degradation of the area, are not acceptable. These include off-roading, abseiling, any function which attracts or may attract a significant number of people, bathers driving down the clay slopes and any other activity which may generate a significant level of noise.”</p> <p>“C. Enforcement: The site managers shall ensure that wardening activities are provided all year round particularly during the summer season where wardens shall patrol the area all day on weekends and on afternoons and evenings during the weekdays. The warden’s role shall mainly consist of guiding the flow of human activity along footpaths, away from sensitive areas, act as a medium of education, control access to various parts of the conservation area, support actual conservation measures, and generally acting in accordance with the provisions of the management plan and this Conservation Order.”</p> <p>“D. Further Management: ... 4.Posidonia banquettes shall be allowed to develop on the beach below the steep promontory joining Il-Qarraba to the mainland, on the Gnejna side (as per plan 5 herewith attached), so that the communities that they maintain can be studied.”</p> <p><b>Ghajn Tuffieha Management Contract:</b></p> <p>“2.3 ... the management of Ghajn Tuffieha is taken to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(iv) the control of activities that may be harmful to the ecology of the area;</li> <li>(v) the application of coastal conservation measures, patrolling of site and assistance in enforcement of site regulations;</li> <li>(vi) the management of beaches in the area”</li> </ul>			
<b>1. Enforcement of beach management guidelines</b>			
<p>“1. Manager will liaise with NPU in order to conclude the new site regulations.</p> <p>2. Patrols will be stepped up in line with new measures contemplated in the revised management plan.</p> <p>3. Maintenance of safety lines for bathers in Malta’s most treacherous bay.</p> <p>4. Upon approval of site regulations, new info boards will be put in place.</p> <p>5. Signs will be posted warning the public against fire threats in the protected area.”</p>	<p><b>Main Activities carried out</b></p> <p>1. Ongoing patrols were carried out on land, with frequency increasing in the summer months, in line with the conservation order.</p> <p>2. The Gaia ranger controlled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access by motorised boats to Ghajn Tuffieha Bay,</li> <li>- Access of vehicles (cars and motorcycles) into the area</li> <li>- Littering regulations,</li> <li>- Fire Safety regulations. The period saw one minor fire on the clay slopes, which was put out almost immediately</li> </ul>	<p>1. Design, Production and installation of signs warning the public against fire threats in the protected area</p> <p>2. Regular Ranger beach patrols during summer months.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Servicing and replacement of information boards, signs and lifelines when necessary</li> <li>- Ongoing Ranger patrols</li> </ul>

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	<p>which was put out almost immediately (for photos see annexed photo dossier).</p> <p>3. During 2 film productions at Ghajn Tuffieha the Gaia ranger patrolled on 3 full days each in order to ensure that the film crews abide by the conditions of MEPA’s permit and the site regulations.</p> <p>4. Installation of safety lines for bathers</p>		
<b>2. Enforcement of site regulations for recreational users</b>			
<p><i>“1. Production of data sheets for rangers to fill in during patrols throughout Ghajn Tuffieha and environs.</i></p> <p><i>2. Plan to extend the ranger facilities to the neighbouring areas in the North West that have a protection status.</i></p> <p><i>3. Formulation of a patrolling and monitoring plan, in collaboration with NPU, to cover the management of the island’s first marine protected area.”</i></p>	<p><b>Main Activities carried out</b></p> <p>1. The occasional attempt by campers to pitch a tent at Ghajn Tuffieha was controlled by the Gaia Ranger.</p> <p>2. Barbeque and picnic activities on the clay slopes and in the groves were controlled. Visitors were informed to use bbq sets on the beach.</p> <p>3. New info boards highlighting the site regulations and the littering and offroading laws were installed (see photo dossier).</p> <p>4. Production of data sheets and maps for ranger and creation of a database for patrolling and monitoring.</p> <p>5. Meetings with MEPA were held in order to discuss about the possibility</p>	<p>1. Regular ongoing patrols at Ghajn Tuffieha</p> <p>2. Plan to extend the ranger facilities beyond the Ghajn Tuffieha borders, to the neighbouring areas in the North West of Malta that have a protection status (subject to available funds).</p>	<p>Ongoing warden patrols</p>

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	<p>of extending the boat patrols to cover the newly designated Marine Protected Area (Rdum Majjiesa to Ras ir-Raheb), including the sea around the protected island Filfla. Gaia Foundation offered the use of its patrolling boat and ranger to perform the necessary sea patrols in the near future.</p> <p>6. The main problems encountered during patrols were: offroading motorcycles on the clay slopes, offroading cars in Olive grove at Hotba il-Bajda, picnics and barbeques in the groves, jet skis and boats coming close to the shore, past the MMA markers.</p>		
<b>3. Restriction of access to legitimate vehicles only</b>			
	<p><b>Main Activities carried out</b></p> <p>1. Gaia ranger controlled access to vehicles to the bay. Limited to beach bar owner during construction of kiosk and to beach cleaning services.</p> <p>2. In May, the manager changed the lock at the bollard system at the main entrance in order to inhibit the further entry of beach bar vehicles (construction works were finished). Shortly after, the padlock was broken and the manager had to replace it. A copy of the key was given to the MTA beach cleaning section for beach cleaning use only.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Regular ongoing patrols at Ghajn Tuffieha</li> <li>2. Maintenance of the padlocked gate and bollard system</li> </ol>	<p>Maintenance of the padlocked gate and bollard system</p>

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	<p>3. On a couple of occasions the ranger found the padlock to the bollards leading to the tower missing. This was replaced by new padlocks. No information was obtained as to who may have smashed the locks.</p> <p>4. In June, a film production was given access to the Ghajn Tuffieha tower for 3 days.</p>		
<p><b>5.3 PROJECT POSEIDON – Marine Conservation and Safety</b></p>			
<p><b>Ghajn Tuffieha Management Contract:</b>  “Article 6 – Further Management  6.4 The Manager shall endeavour to ensure the co-ordination of the administration and management of the area as a whole, particularly in case the marine area adjacent to the Ghajn Tuffieha Special Area of Conservation is declared protected.”</p>			
<p><b>1. Putting in place the administrative set up</b></p>			
<p><i>“1. Submit details to MEPA in connection with possible contribution by Gaia to the management of the SAC, in terms of art. 6.4 of the management agreement.</i></p> <p><i>2. Liaise with NPU in the setting up of a managing body, in terms of the management framework submitted by MEPA.”</i></p>	<p><b>Main Activities carried out</b></p> <p>1. Meetings with MEPA were held in order to discuss about the possibility of extending the boat patrols to cover the newly designated Marine Protected Area (Rdum Majjiesa to Ras ir-Raheb), which is adjacent to the Ghajn Tuffieha area, including the sea around the protected island Filfla. The Gaia Foundation offered the use of its patrolling boat and ranger to perform the necessary sea patrols in the near future.</p>	<p>1. Further cooperation with NPU in management of marine protected area</p>	

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<b>2. Coordination &amp; collaboration with stakeholders</b>			
“1. Liaise with NPU to collaborate with farmers on site to provide info on agro chemical use”	-	1. Liaise with NPU to collaborate with farmers on site to provide info on agro chemical use	
<b>3. Raising public awareness</b>			
“1. Raise public awareness to inform sectors about benefits, scope and mode of use of the SAC. 2. Include feature of the marine SAC in Gaiafest in June. 3. Include feature in general information brochure of the site.”	-	1. Incorporating information on Marine protected area in the manager’s dissemination of information. 2. Public survey on public perception of SAC	
<b>4. Priority intervention measures pending final management plan</b>			
“1. Increase in the marine patrols of the manager’s rangers to cover the SAC, especially Zones A and B –E and use such patrols to collect data of human activities and educate users of the SAC”	-	1. Possible Marine patrols of the manager’s rangers to cover the SAC, especially Zones A and B –E and use such patrols to collect data of human activities and educate users of the SAC (subject to funds availability)	
<b>5. Pollution control to reduce marine habitat degradation through runoff</b>			
“1. Carrying out of water sample for traces of agro-chemicals. 2. Liaise with NPU to collaborate with farmers on site to provide info on agro chemical use. 3. Liaise with NPU for the conclusion of the site management rules that are to include the regulation of farming.”	-	1. Carrying out of water sample for traces of agro-chemicals. 2. Liaise with NPU to collaborate with farmers on site to provide info on agro chemical use. 3. Liaise with NPU for the conclusion of the site management rules that are to include the regulation of farming.	

Activities projected for Jan - June 2006 <sup>1</sup>	Project Report Period Jan – June 2006	Projected activities July – December 2006	Short term activities 2006 – 2007 <sup>2</sup>
<b>6. Marine surveys</b>			
“1. Identify marine surveys required and methods of procurement.”	-	1. Identification of the most important marine surveys necessary for an effective management of the site.	
<b>5.4 PROJECT PHOENIX – Waste Management</b>			
<b>Conservation Order:</b> “Removal of litter shall be carried out regularly, through an approved methodology. To this effect, the site managers shall submit a method statement and cleaning programme”			
<b>1. Beach-cleaning and implementation of waste management system</b>			
<p>“1. A waste collection method statement will be completed and submitted to NPU, MTA and advisory board.</p> <p>2. Follow up of the method statement to reach an agreement between the relevant entities on an upgraded waste management for the area.</p> <p>3. Make provision for the increase in bins at the Ghajn Tuffieha car park. Request the introduction of a permanent bring in site for the Ghajn Tuffieha/Golden Bay area</p> <p>4. Monitor the hand picking on the beach</p> <p>5. Service the small bays around Qarraba.</p> <p>6. Monitor the servicing of the car park bins.”</p>	<p><b>Main Activities carried out</b></p> <p>1. Carried out by MTA personnel. Most of the litter in winter and spring came ashore with the North Westerlies.</p> <p>2. Car park bins were serviced by the Mgarr Council. These were neglected for some time by the contractor, and the matter was taken up with the MTA and the Mgarr Council. The maintenance of these bins has subsequently improved.</p> <p>3. The bring in site supplied by WasteServ was removed last summer, thereby making it impossible to maintain a waste separation system at the beach over the summer months, as in previous years.</p> <p>4. Waste collection method statement submitted to NPU, the advisory board and MTA.</p>	<p>1. Adoption of an integrated waste management plan, with all stakeholders involved.</p> <p>2. Appointment of a contact person at the MTA who would follow up any reports by the manager, council or public.</p> <p>3. Introduction of a permanent bring in site for Ghajn Tuffieha and Golden Bay.</p> <p>4. Participation in the Clean-up-the-world-campaign in Autumn 2006</p>	<p><b>Separated Waste Bins</b></p> <p>In order to reinforce the ideas of proper waste management, the manager is to put bins for waste fractions at the Visitor Centre. Any visitors or members of the Organic Food Shop are encouraged to separate their waste in use the said site.</p> <p>Separated waste is also to be collected from the main bay at Ghajn Tuffieha and removed for recycling.</p> <p><b>Global Cleaning- up- the- world-Campaign</b></p> <p>Regular participation in the global Cleaning- up- the-world-Campaign promoted by the UN is another opportunity to promote proper waste management.</p> <p><b>Reinforce litter regulations</b></p>

<b>Activities projected for Jan - June 2006<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Project Report Period Jan – June 2006</b>	<b>Projected activities July – December 2006</b>	<b>Short term activities 2006 – 2007<sup>2</sup></b>
	<p>5. Posidonia banquettes in accordance with the Conservation Order have been allowed to develop on small beach at south base of Il-Karraba-Isthmus.</p> <p>6. The Posidonia along the main beach has been removed by the MTA from May onwards. However due to the nature of the currents, there was far less need for this in May and June.</p> <p>7. Hand picking was carried out to keep the main beach clean. This however did not cover small items like cigarette butts and bottle tops, which tend to leave a grubby/dirty impression of the beach.</p> <p>8. A number of cleanups were carried out by the Manager, with the assistance of volunteers, along the clay slopes, the Golden Bay Headland and beneath the car park. The equivalent of an industrial skip full of bags was collected. Some of the waste was collected in fractions and deposited in bring in sites. The Mgarr Council requested that the Mgarr site not be used. Subsequent use was made of the site at Xemxija.</p>		<p>Waste management bins are also placed at the Ghajn Tuffieha Bay and its car park. The manager is to assist in frequent patrolling especially in the Ghajn Tuffieha bay and environs.</p> <p><b>Posidonia sea grass</b></p> <p>This is to be collected from the main bay at Ghajn Tuffieha in the summer months and ultimately used as a fertilizer in the sustainable agriculture project. This system can be upgraded to provide compost for other farmers in the vicinity.</p> <p><b>Beach Cleaning</b></p> <p>Ongoing beach cleaning activities during the summer months. Allow undisturbed accumulation of Posidonia banquettes on small beach at south base of Isthmus for research purposes.</p>

Activities projected for Jan - June 2006 <sup>1</sup>	Project Report Period Jan – June 2006	Projected activities July – December 2006	Short term activities 2006 – 2007 <sup>2</sup>
<b>5.5 PROJECT APOLLO – Operation of a Visitor Centre and Visitor Information</b>			
<b>Ghajn Tuffieha Management Contract:</b> “2.3 ... the management of Ghajn Tuffieha is taken to include: (ix) the running of a visitor centre on site”			
<b>1. Visitor interpretation boards at vantage points</b>			
“1. Submission to NPU of a signage plan for new and revised boards on: - the new site regulations, - the Marine SAC, - the land SAC, - the littering and offroading laws, - the cultural features of the site, - the nature trail, - waste separation and collection.”		1. Design and production of signs warning for fire hazard	According to NPU no further information boards should be installed throughout the protected site in order not to disturb the natural appearance of the site.
<b>2. Visitor Centre</b>			
	<b>Main Activities carried out</b> 1. Design and Production of a new Entrance board for the Visitor centre 2. The shading structures for the nursery have been improved in order to provide shade for the seedlings in summer and visitors given tours. 5. Tours and Workshops including voluntary work for tourists, school classes, students, children groups were carried out in the Visitor Centre and throughout the nursery.		<b>Organisation of tours for tourists</b> The manager is to organise regular tours for tourists and school trips, giving them information about the ongoing projects; focusing on Eco Heritage Tours. Tours would include workshops and hands on participation in project work on site. Supply of more books and dvds on Malta’s heritage and environmental issues.

Activities projected for Jan - June 2006 <sup>1</sup>	Project Report Period Jan – June 2006	Projected activities July – December 2006	Short term activities 2006 – 2007 <sup>2</sup>
<b>5.6 PROJECT HERMES – Dissemination of information</b>			
<p><b>Conservation Order:</b>                      “The Sound Locater, Crew Quarters and Beach Post ..., shall be restored by the site managers ... These structures shall only be used for educational purposes.”                      “The warden’s role shall mainly consist of guiding the flow of human activity along footpaths, away from sensitive areas, act as a medium of education, control access to various parts of the conservation area, support actual conservation measures...”</p> <p><b>Ghajn Tuffieha Management Contract:</b>                      “2.3 ... the management of Ghajn Tuffieha is taken to include:                      (vii) the promotion of education and public awareness on the conservation of the sites and its biological diversity                      (viii) the dissemination of information on the project”</p>			
<b>1. Establishment of Nature Trails</b>			
<p>“1. Incorporation of the final draft of the nature trail in the management plan, to be approved by NPU, MEPA.”</p>	<p><b>Main Activities carried out</b>                      1. A footpath and signage plan including the nature trail for the area was submitted to MEPA (see project Elysium)</p>		<p><b>Further development of signposted and self guided routes and tours</b>                      Set out and signpost an eco friendly route / Nature Trail at Ghajn Tuffieha.</p>
<b>2. Holding of educational activities, including beach clean-up campaigns</b>			
<p>“1. Organisation of ecology workshops for local schools                      2. Organisation of workshops “becoming an eco citizen of the world”, for foreign student visitors.                      3. Organisation of cleanups around the site.                      4. Promotion of public use of a bring in site, if provided by WasteServ.                      5. Continuation of the foreign internship programme, which complements the work of the permanent staff.</p>	<p><b>Main Activities carried out</b>                      1. Several workshops organised at the centre and on site, for both local and foreign schools. These included:                      2. 14 workshops on “becoming an eco citizen of the world”, were given to the people to people programme of the USA. In June 570 US students participated. These also contributed 570 hours of voluntary work to the project.                      3. Workshops for local schools and scout groups</p>	<p>1. Further organisation of ecology workshops for local schools                      2. Further organisation of workshops “becoming an eco citizen of the world”, for foreign student visitors.                      3. Further organisation of cleanups around the site.                      4. Promotion of public use of a bring in site, if provided by WasteServ.                      5. Continuation of the foreign internship programme, which complements the work of the permanent staff.</p>	<p><b>Organisation of annual festivals</b>                      Organisation of an annual festival to celebrate the world environment day. The manager is to organise festivals to disseminate more information to the general public. When such activities are organised, the manager has a possibility to increase exposure of the project on the local media, including television, radio and newspapers. This is an effective way of capturing attention and giving specific information.</p>

<b>Activities projected for Jan - June 2006<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Project Report Period Jan – June 2006</b>	<b>Projected activities July – December 2006</b>	<b>Short term activities 2006 – 2007<sup>2</sup></b>
<p><i>permanent staff.</i> 6. <i>Conducting of tours at the Visitor centre for foreign visitors.”</i></p>	<p>4. Work at the workshops included assistance in clean ups of the site. 5. Further development of the internship programme. Foreign students joined the project for several weeks, as part of their studies. They combined academic and hands on work that served to enhance their education and give a boost to the project work. Approximately 2,000 hours of voluntary work was carried out by these interns. 6. Several tours of the centre and the indigenous nursery and Mediterranean garden at the centre, took place for foreign visitors, exposing them to the project, coastal management work in Malta, and local flora. Walking tours were also promoted at these site visit tours.</p>	<p>permanent staff. 6. Ongoing conduction of tours at the Visitor centre for foreign visitors.</p>	<p><b>Organisation of regular clean up activities</b> The manager shall keep on organising clean-up campaigns covering different areas under its control.</p> <p><b>Organisation of school outings</b> The organisation of various school outings throughout the year. The program of these outings will be presented in an interactive way with the students. Apart from the dissemination of information about Gaia, the students will have hands on work and participate in nature trails, treasure hunts, and quizzes.</p>
<p><b>3. Membership drive, fundraising and public awareness building</b></p>			
<p><i>“1. The organisation of Gaiafest, to take place at Ghajn Tuffieha Visitor Centre between 2-4 June. This will incorporate:</i> - <i>Workshops</i> - <i>Seminars</i> - <i>Stalls</i> - <i>Exhibition</i> - <i>Entertainment</i>  <i>Covering a number of issues:</i></p>	<p><b>Main Activities carried out</b> 1. The preparations for the Gaiafest, our annual festival in the end of June 2006, included: - The production of a special website <a href="http://www.gaiafest.org">www.gaiafest.org</a> - The production of an A5-Leaflet and an A3-Poster (see photo dossier) - The organisation of information stalls and bands - Coordination of talks, demonstrations, seminars and</p>	<p>1. Continuation of the Adopt-a-Tree Campaign (Project Elysium) 2. Further promotion of tree planting programmes around the North West</p>	<p><b>Ongoing Membership drive, and fundraising</b> - Continuation of the Adopt-a-Tree Campaign (Project Elysium) - Membership drive for organic produce (Project Persephone) - School incentive to plant trees - Heritage tours - Increase the awareness of farmers of organic farming techniques, advantages and opportunities.</p>

<b>Activities projected for Jan - June 2006<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Project Report Period Jan – June 2006</b>	<b>Projected activities July – December 2006</b>	<b>Short term activities 2006 – 2007<sup>2</sup></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Ecology</li> <li>- Coastal management</li> <li>- Animal welfare</li> <li>- Fair trade</li> <li>- Ecovillage network</li> <li>- Clean energy</li> <li>- Environmental health”</li> </ul>	<p>demonstrations, seminars and workshops</p> <p>The Gaiafest is our main awareness raising event organised at our Visitor Centre at Ghajn Tuffieha. It is a holistic festival that reflects the integrated approach to managing and learning about our environment. As such it includes not just the main themes of environment and ecology, but also animal rights and welfare, nutrition and organic food, holistic health, social justice and fair trade, yoga, relaxation and martial arts, and last but not least, local and international talent.</p> <p>2. Promotion of the adopt a tree campaign, with local and foreign visitors, to raise funds for the habitat restoration work.</p>		
<b>4. Website</b>			
<p><i>“1. Continuation of the upgrade of the website, to include an upgrade of the translations of the updated material.”</i></p>	<p><b>Main Activities carried out</b></p> <p>1. The Gaia Website has been updated and provided with new information about ongoing projects (for example information about Gaia’s new scheme of selling organic vegetables, Elysium Picture Gallery has been overhauled). At the same time the translations of the updated website in German, French and Spanish have been adapted by native speakers. The website was visited by</p>	<p>1. Continuation of the upgrade of the website, to include an upgrade of the translations of the updated material, and an overhaul in the layout of the website.</p>	<p><b>New layout for website</b></p> <p>Overhaul of the website, making it more interactive and easy to navigate. The website is to become more eye catching through the use of a virtual tour of the premises as well as the conservation areas under management. Additional pages will be constructed. These will include coastal management, patrolling, services offered and thorough updating of the information about the</p>

Activities projected for Jan - June 2006 <sup>1</sup>	Project Report Period Jan – June 2006	Projected activities July – December 2006	Short term activities 2006 – 2007 <sup>2</sup>
	a total of 16,000 different visitors.		projects. The number of languages shall also be increased from 5 to 6 or 7. The aim is to attract more people to make use of site management related services, as well as to inform and educate the general public on the local coastal environment.
<b>5. Information leaflets</b>			
<p><i>“1. Production and dissemination of an information leaflet on Gaiafest. 2. Preparation for the production of a general information brochure on the project”</i></p>	<p><b>Main Activities carried out</b> 1. Preparation for the production of a general information brochure on the Gaia Foundation work at Ghajn Tuffieha and Ramla. 2. Leaflets and posters for promoting the Gaiafest were produced and distributed throughout Malta.</p>	<p>1. The production of a general information brochure. 2. The production of a flora information brochure for schools and visitors to the Visitor Centre.</p>	<p><b>Distribution of leaflet and flyers</b> The distribution of leaflets and flyers on various issues related to the project at the Visitor Centre, fairs and festivals in which The Manager participates. Brochures shall be printed specifically on the site management and the Visitor Centre, targeting schools and other visitors. There shall be also brochures giving information on the eco tourist practices in the coastal zone.</p>
<b>6. Publication of newsletter</b>			
<p><i>“1. A newsletter covering the project and several environment issues will be published.”</i></p>	-	1. Publication of an online newsletter	<p><b>Ongoing publication of newsletter</b> An annual newsletter based upon the annual report on the site activities and management will be produced on line and disseminated to stakeholders.</p>
<b>7. Media</b>			
<p><i>“1. DVDs to be distributed to schools for awareness raising of the project. 2. Production of a series of articles</i></p>	<p><b>Main activities carried out</b> 1. Production of a series of articles in local magazines and newspapers:</p>	1. Production of a series of articles covering coastal management and related issues for publication in local magazines and newspapers	<p><b>Distribution of DVDs</b> The manager is to distribute 3 different dvds on coastal</p>

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<p><i>covering coastal management and related issues for publication in local magazines and newspapers”</i></p>	<p>GAIAFEST 2006 MEDIA COVERAGE (see also annex 6)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Music Bands - Malta Today 18.06.</li> <li>- Online Articles on Holistic Living &amp; Bands Performing – Di-ve’s Life Section &amp; Maltastar’s Life Section 21.06., Di-ve.com, 18.06. <a href="http://www.dive.com/dive/portal/portal.jhtml?id=233398&amp;pid=127">http://www.dive.com/dive/portal/portal.jhtml?id=233398&amp;pid=127</a>, Warriors of Pride, Manic Malta, 22.06. <a href="http://www.manicmalta.com/mmdiscus/messages/1575/2975.htm">http://www.manicmalta.com/mmdiscus/messages/1575/2975.htm</a>, Mediterranean Diet <a href="http://www.freewebs.com/no-choice-in-ana/index.htm">http://www.freewebs.com/no-choice-in-ana/index.htm</a></li> <li>- Renewable Energy -The Times 23.06. <a href="http://www.timesofmalta.com/core/article.php?id=228286&amp;hilite=renewable+energy">http://www.timesofmalta.com/core/article.php?id=228286&amp;hilite=renewable+energy</a></li> <li>- Gaiafest 06 Press Release – Malta Today 28.05.</li> <li>- Gaiafest Press Release + Info on Arts &amp; Crafts of Tanzania - The Times, June</li> <li>- Gaiafest Insert in Art Calendar - The Independent 05.06.</li> <li>- Gaiafest Paragraph - TASTE magazine June Issue</li> </ul>	<p>magazines and newspapers</p>	<p>conservation, biodiversity and habitat restoration and organic farming produced in 2002. It will explore the possibility of making these available to schools as downloads from its website.</p> <p><b>Articles in print media</b> Production of a series of articles covering coastal management and related issues for publication in local magazines and newspapers.</p>

Activities projected for Jan - June 2006 <sup>1</sup>	Project Report Period Jan – June 2006	Projected activities July – December 2006	Short term activities 2006 – 2007 <sup>2</sup>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Gaiafest Insert - The Onion 22.06.</li> <li>- Gaiafest Press Release - The Times 24.06. <a href="http://www.timesofmalta.com/core/article.php?id=228370&amp;hilite=gaiafest">http://www.timesofmalta.com/core/article.php?id=228370&amp;hilite=gaiafest</a></li> </ul>		
<b>8. Seminars</b>			
-	-	-	<p><b>Organisation of annual seminars and workshops</b></p> <p>A Seminar related to coastal management, or an aspect thereof, shall be organised on an annual basis.</p>
<b>9. Dissemination of project results and experience to local and regional audience</b>			
<p><i>“1. Participation in working groups with MEPA in order to finalise the management plan.</i></p> <p><i>2. Discussion with MEPA on interim measures to be taken pending the approval of the Plan.</i></p> <p><i>3. Presentation of report July-December to MEPA and MRAE.”</i></p>	<p><b>Main activities carried out</b></p> <p>1. Report for period July-December 2005 submitted to MEPA and MRAE.</p> <p>2. Two representative of the Gaia Foundation participated in the 3-day-seminar “Management Planning - Appropriate Management Plans for Natura 2000 sites” organised by MEPA and foreign experts from 24th to 26th of April 2006. The seminar provided the theoretical background to management plans and practical training during the workshop session. During the field trip to managed and non-managed SACs in Malta, the Ghajn Tuffieha area and Gaia’s</p>	<p>1. Participation in working groups with MEPA in order to finalise the management plan.</p> <p>2. Presentation of report January-June to MEPA and MRAE.</p> <p>3. Publish updated draft management plan and activities reports on projectgaia website</p>	<p><b>Dissemination of project results</b></p> <p>An annual report on the management of the site and related activities will be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Published on the website</li> <li>- sent to MRAE</li> <li>- sent to MEPA</li> <li>- sent to funders</li> </ul>

Activities projected for Jan - June 2006 <sup>1</sup>	Project Report Period Jan – June 2006	Projected activities July – December 2006	Short term activities 2006 – 2007 <sup>2</sup>
	<p>Visitor Centre were visited as well.</p> <p>Submission of Audited financial report for 2005 to MEPA, MRAE and Liberty Foundation. Detailed audited management accounts were also posted on the website, to be available to the public, in line with the manager's policy since 2000.</p> <p>Submission of an ad hoc report to the Director of environment policy of the MRAE in March.</p> <p>Preparation of activities report January to June 2006, following an overhaul and upgrading of the reporting system.</p>		
<b>5.7 Project Funding</b>			
<p><i>“1. activity and financial reports to be submitted to MEPA /MRAE</i></p> <p><i>2. Follow up of Liberty application</i></p> <p><i>3. Follow up of EUPU application</i></p> <p><i>4. Explore Parks Section's needs for indigenous plants.”</i></p>	<p><b>Main activities carried out</b></p> <p>1. Preparation of reports and documents for submission to MRAE and MEPA for payment of Ministry grant.</p> <p>2. Application to EEA/Norway for a grant for the enhanced management of Ghajn Tuffieha was unsuccessful.</p> <p>3. Application to the Liberty Foundation for a similar grant was successful.</p> <p>4. Organisation of workshops for foreign students.</p> <p>5. Sale of plants and organic food.</p>	<p>1. Activity and financial reports to be submitted to MEPA /MRAE and Liberty Foundation, and posted on the website.</p>	<p>Continuation with project funding</p>

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	<p>6. Organisation of Gaiafest 2006.</p> <p>7. Dionysus kiosk. Following the operation of a large kiosk down at Ghajn Tuffieha Bay, the income from the Dionysus kiosk has been reduced. This has a negative impact on the site, since proceeds from the operation fee are ploughed back into the management of the site. This is the only case in Malta where a kiosk is actively serving the local environment.</p>		