

INTEGRATED MANAGEMENT OF SPECIAL AREAS OF CONSERVATION IN THE MALTESE ISLANDS (PART OF THE NATURA 2000 NETWORK)



**Report for the period January to December 2009, on activities carried out by The Gaia
Foundation as Project Manager for Ghajn Tuffieha, Malta**

THE GAIA FOUNDATION

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:

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| Project Elysium | Biodiversity and ecological restoration of habitats |
| Project Olympus | Coastal conservation, enforcement, monitoring |
| Project Poseidon | Marine conservation and safety |
| Project Phoenix | Waste management |
| Project Hermes | Dissemination of information |
| Project Galatea | Cultural heritage |
| Project Apollo | Operation of a Visitor Centre |
| Project Persephone | Promotion of Organic Farming |
| Project Athene | Agro-Environment promotion of Olive, Almond and Pomegranate Trees |

These projects, except for Galatea and Poseidon, were all active in this project report period. On the advice of the NPU, the work on the organic farming project "Persephone" is not included in this report.

4 Project Activities

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| 4.1 PROJECT ELYSIUM – Biodiversity and ecological restoration of habitats | | |
| <p>Conservation Order: “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>Ghajn Tuffieha and Ramla Management Contracts: “2.3 ... the management of (Ghajn Tuffieha/Ramla) 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> | | |
| 1. Inventory of species present, listing of threatened species | | |
| | <p>In 2008 A year long dry and wet season compilation and update of a species list for the GT SAC was kicarried out by Timothy Tabone, under commission by the Manager. This was split into the following 4 areas. The total number of species listed per area is detailed below</p> <p>i. Golden Bay Headland,</p> | <p>An update flora survey will be carried out between Oct 2010 and April 2011.</p> |

¹ According to Activities Report July to December 2006

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| | ii. Hotba I-Bajda iii. Clay slopes overlooking Ghajn Tuffieha Bay iv. il-Qarraba An updated survey was therefore not deemed necessary in 2009. | |
| 2. Assessment of habitat degradation | | |
| 1. Monitor progress of vegetation recovery in rehabilitated areas. | The phasing out of Acacia along the Northern and central upper clay slopes, followed by the planting of Lygeum spartum has lead to a noticeable improvement of the salt steppe community. However the phase out of Acacia requires constant monitoring to eliminate new shoots from the established root system as well as new seedlings. | Work on acacia removal will continued along the clay slopes as well as at Hotba I-Bajda. Work to include removing established trees as well as new shoots and seedlings that sprung up in areas previously covered. The lygeum spartum saplings that were planted will be regularly irrigated, generally once every two weeks. |
| 3. Plant Nursery & Habitat Restoration of degraded areas | | |
| Ghajn Tuffieha and Ramla “1. Intensive propagation of Esparto Grass (Lygeum spartum) and Golden Samphire (Inula crithmoides) by sowing and division for planting at Ghajn Tuffieha clay slopes. | 1. Work at the nursery focused on the sowing, sticking and repotting of various indigenous and endemic species. The continued propagation of new species was tried successfully (e.g. Judas Tree, Maltese Salt Tree, Mediterranean Buckthorn and Lentisk) with yet another improved yield in 2009, and once again especially with regard to the Med. Buckthorn. 2. The propagation of a number of the rare Narrow Leaved Rock Rose (<i>Cistus monspeliensis</i>) by cuttings and seeds last year was again successful. The experiments started in 2008 on Myrtus comunis (Myrtle) and Maltese Stalk (Matthial Incana SSP Melitensis) were very successful in 2009. | 1. Continue work in Tree Nursery and extend assortment with more native plants difficult to propagate. Focus on the Rhamnus alaternus, Lonicera implexa, Erica multiflora, pistacio lentiscus, vitex agnus |

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| <p>2. Removal of <i>Opuntia ficus indicus</i> (Prickly Pear) and <i>Acacia</i> in clay slopes at Ghajn Tuffieha.</p> <p>3. Monitoring of acacia and prevention of regrowth.</p> <p>4. Planting of Esparto Grass (<i>Lygeum spartum</i>) and Golden Samphire (<i>Inula crithmoides</i>) along Ghajn Tuffieha clay slopes as part of phaseout programme of <i>Acacia</i>.</p> <p>5. Planting of indigenous species in replacement of acacia on former agricultural land.</p> | <p>3. Other work in the indigenous tree nursery included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. repotting, ii. weeding, iii. cleaning iv. watering. v. mulching vi. adding small stones to pots to reduce evaporation <p>4. Tours and Workshops including voluntary work for school classes, tourists and student groups were carried out throughout the Tree Nursery.</p> <p>5. A natural pest control for olive trees was carried out using a mix of coke, honey and Bovril. This proved to have only a measured level of success.</p> <p>6. <i>Inula dendroides</i> (Golden Samphire) and <i>Lygeum spartum</i> (Esparto Grass) required intensive watering having all been newly planted</p> <p>7. The phase out of <i>Acacia saligna</i> (<i>Acacia</i>) at the clay slopes continued. Re-growth was being removed as well. A large part of the rangers' work involved the tackling of the acacia problem. The seedlings have been regularly removed. Eventually this phase will be completed since new seeds would not be available from the young shoots. The problem of the established roots is more difficult to resolve. Stubs are being covered with small plastic covers to block out light and air, and cloth over the plastic to block out preserve the plastic covers from deterioration due to sun exposure. These methods have so far proved quite successful, provided that constant monitoring and work is required.</p> <p>8. 400 <i>Lygeum spartum</i> saplings were planted along the upper clay slopes, just past the entrance from the car park, on the left. This area was effected by a bush fire in the summer caused by vandals. Many of the existing plants have started to regenerate, with the new saplings planted in the empty patches.</p> <p>8. Prickly Pear shoots (<i>Opuntia Ficus-Indica</i>), planted 300 metres from the Elysium</p> | <p>castus, thymus amongst others.</p> <p>2. Cooperate with public entities and NGO's in order to provide native plants for tree planting and habitat restoration programmes in Malta & Gozo.</p> <p>1. Intensive propagation of Esparto Grass (<i>Lygeum spartum</i>) and Golden Samphire (<i>Inula crithmoides</i>) by sowing and division. Planting to be carried out along GT clay slopes.</p> <p>2. Continue 10 year phase out programme of <i>Acacia</i> at Ghajn Tuffieha clay slopes, and replace with <i>Lygeum spartum</i> and <i>Inula crithmoides</i>.</p> <p>3. Continue 10 year phase out programme of <i>Acacia</i> and <i>Asparagus aphyllus</i> on the former agricultural land at Hotba I-Bajda, with planting of <i>Olea europea</i>, <i>pistacio lentiscus</i>, <i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>,</p> |

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| | <p>Visitor Centre by the neighbouring farmers, continue to be an issue, with some local farmer persistently planting new shoots. This is an ongoing process since the farmers keep insisting on surreptitiously planting them despite being told not to, when the Manager’s personnel is not about. Rangers continue to remove them, leaving only the established Opuntia which the farmers insist they want as a windbreak.</p> <p>9. The trees and shrubs planted at Ghajn Tuffieha in former years were irrigated by drip from the water sources at the Nursery during the summer months. Areas irrigated in this period were the Golden Bay Headland, Hotba I-Bajda and the clay slopes above Ghajn Tuffieha Bay. The sites were irrigated once a week. Despite the fairly extensive water storage facilities situated at the Elysium Centre, and the good 2008/9 rainy season, water was required from outside sources to maintain irrigation from July to September. This was an improvement of previous years when water purchase usually commences around April.</p> <p>10. A new phase out of Acacia saligna commenced in Spring at the Eastern end of the site, bordering the old corbelled road, that is the lower Northern end of Hotba I-Bajda. This site was formerly agricultural land before the planting of the Acacia grove in the late 1960’s. The area is covered in a reasonably large quantity of soil. The Acacia has been replaced by Rhamnus alaternus (Mediterranean Buckthorn), Pistacio lentiscus (Lentisk), Mirtus comunis (Myrtle) and Olea europea (Olive). These were watered regularly throughout the dry season.</p> | <p>Lonicera implexa, myrtus comunis, Cistus creticus & Cistus monspeliensis.</p> <p>4. Regular monitoring and prevention of regrowth and resprouting of Acacia removed in 2006-9 at Ghajn Tuffieha.</p> <p>5. Removal of Agave and Opuntia ficus indicus beneath Golden Bay Headland.</p> |
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| 4.2 PROJECT OLYMPUS – Coastal Conservation | | |
| <p>Conservation Order:</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>Ghajn Tuffieha and Ramla Management Contracts:</p> <p>the management of Ghajn Tuffieha and Ramla is taken to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (iv) the control of activities that may be harmful to the ecology of the area; (v) the application of coastal conservation measures, patrolling of site and assistance in enforcement of site regulations; (vi) the management of beaches in the area” | | |
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| 1. Beach and site management and enforcement of site regulations for coastal conservation | | |
| <p><i>“1. Carry out regular ranger patrols throughout the protected site to monitor and enforce site regulations.</i></p> <p><i>2. Monitoring and control of BBQ’s during the summer.</i></p> <p><i>3. Design, Production installation and/or</i></p> | <p>Ghajn Tuffieha</p> <p>Ongoing patrols were carried out on land, with higher frequency in the summer months, in line with the conservation order. The Gaia rangers controlled:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Access by motorised and non motorised boats to Ghajn Tuffieha and Ramla Bay, - Access of vehicles (cars and motorcycles) into the area - Regulations pertaining to camping, littering, noise, removal or disturbance of flora and habitats. <p>Gaia rangers retained the uniform designed in 2007, with a maroon polo shirt, navy blue shorts and cap, with embroidered logos on the shirts and caps.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. pass legal notice with site specific regulations. 2. regular ranger patrols. 3. site maintainance. 4. upgrade and replace info boards where necessary. 5. Liaise with MTA for provision of Lifeguards. |

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| <p><i>maintenance/replacement of signs warning the public of site regulations, guidelines and protection status of the site.</i></p> <p>4. Liaise with MMA to seal off swimmers' zones with markers across the bay.</p> <p>5. Assist and monitor any filming carried out on site, ensure compliance of MEPA conditions, and forward requests for filming to Mepa.</p> <p>6. Ensure regular testing of bathing water quality, post results on site and report any signs of contamination.</p> <p>8. Liaise with authorities to prevent beach operators from operating without all necessary permits.</p> <p>9. Lay out safety lines in swimmers' zone</p> | <p>1. The occasional attempt by campers to pitch a tent at Ghajn Tuffieha was controlled by the Gaia Rangers.</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. However this has remained a problem since some people set up BBQs late at night and waste is at times found in the sand the next day.</p> <p>3. The main problems encountered during patrols were: off roading scrambler on the clay slopes of Ghajn Tuffieha, since these are very difficult to control,</p> <p>4. Following a request by the Manager the MMA installed for the season a rope and float system to close off the swimmers' zones delineated by yellow buoys in Ghajn Tuffieha. This has lead to a very considerable reduction of abuse by sea vessels, though the rangers were still busy asking some boats to leave the swimming zone, usually on the weekends. The MMA regulations pertaining to the swimmers' zone forbid any vessel, whether motorised or not, from entering the zone.</p> <p>5. 2 Safety lines were also installed by the manager in early June and maintained throughout the summer by the rangers. These were removed in early October and serviced and stored for use the following year. So far these safety lines have had a 100% success rate over the 11 year period in which they have been used, with no fatal casualties in what used to be the most dangerous bay on the island, with an average of 1-2 fatalities per annum up to 1996.</p> <p>6. Throughout the summer at Ghajn Tuffieha the Manager introduced the flag system used in blue flag beaches, that is, red for danger, yellow for caution and green for calm weather. He erection of a flag pole beneath the Riviera Kiosk and an explanation sign with colour code at the stairway intersection.</p> <p>7. These were serviced by the rangers, who also introduced a first aid box. The beach was managed in line with a number of blue flag criteria, in preparation for the Manager's upgrade in 2009 to manage the beach in accordance with all blue flag criteria. An application for the Blue Flag award will be submitted in 2009.</p> <p>8. Extra ranger patrols were carried out over the weekends, with rangers also collecting rubbish from the Gaia bin placed beneath the Qarraba Peninsula and hand picking along the main beach.</p> <p>9. In August, 2 lifeguards were commissioned on a daily basis to man the beach. This was the first time such a service was available on this beach. The service covered the months of August and September and was financed by the MTA.</p> | <p>6. Liaise with MRRA for adequate beach cleansing.</p> <p>7. Control group activities through guidelines, permits and monitoring.</p> <p>8. Place safety lines in summer.</p> <p>9. Liaise with MMA for swimmers' zone and boat lane.</p> <p>10. Enforce site regulations through rangers and police support.</p> <p>11. run refreshments and information kiosk at Ghajn Tuffieha Car Park.</p> <p>12. Organise beach clean ups and support cleanups by third party groups.</p> <p>13. Conduct beach surveys of marine fauna.</p> |

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| | <p>10. In April and May, the Manager revamped the Dionysus kiosk situated at the car park to come in line with food health regulations. This included rewiring, circuit breakers, sanding down and varnishing the wood, putting in a false ceiling and a cooler. Unlike previous years the kiosk was run directly by the Manager, and doubled up as a base for the Rangers and a mini information kiosk to assist in the organisation of public awareness activities relating to the beach management and the Blue flag standard. Bins for waste fractions were introduced for the kiosk. The proceeds of the kiosks helped to finance the beach equipment and volunteer costs related to extra beach patrols.</p> | |
| <p>3. Restriction of access to legitimate vehicles</p> | | |
| <p><i>1. Regular ongoing patrols at Ghajn Tuffieha</i> <i>2. Maintenance of the padlocked gate and bollard system”</i> <i>3. The entry of unauthorized vehicles to be reported to NPU, MEPA and action taken.”</i> <i>4. Third party access allowed only on formal approval.</i></p> | <p>1. Gaia rangers controlled access to vehicles to the bay, which is generally limited to beach cleaning services and site management. 2. To inhibit further misuse of the beach cleaning truck (e.g. to transport products for beach bar) the Gaia ranger gave a copy of the key Victor the beach cleaner who undertook to use it exclusively for the dumper. 3. The Riviera Martinique bar operator, who was given MEPA approval to install a winch from The Martinique hotel to the bar, used this to service the bar. 4. The said operator requested the Manager to allow vehicular access to the kiosk to repair/change a fridge/freezer at the beginning of the season. This was referred to the Mepa Director of Environment, who allowed such access so long as it was a one time trip. 5. The padlocked steel cables and bollards restricting vehicular access to clay slopes were checked and maintained. However major problems have been encountered with regard to the bollards leading to the tower. These were replaced several times, but were systematically destroyed. The Manager is considering replacing these with very large boulders.</p> | <p>1. Maintenance of padlocked steel cable and bollard systems. Possile addition of boulders to supplement bollards destroyed at car park entrance to tower. 2. The entry of unauthorized vehicles to be reported to NPU, MEPA and action taken. 3. Third party access allowed only on formal approval.</p> |

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| 4.3 PROJECT POSEIDON – Marine Conservation and Safety | | |
| <p>Ghajn Tuffieha Management Contract: “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>1. <i>Further cooperation with NPU in management of marine protected area</i> 2. <i>collaboration with other NGO’s for surveys and dissemination of information</i></p> | <p>Collaboration with MEPA in the management of the marine conservation area has not been active during this period.</p> | <p>Conduct beach surveys of marine fauna.</p> |
| 4.4 PROJECT PHOENIX – Waste Management | | |
| <p>Conservation Order: “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”</p> | | |
| 1. Beach-cleaning and implementation of waste management system | | |
| <p>1. <i>Adoption of an integrated waste management plan, with all stakeholders involved.</i> 2. <i>Retention of a permanent bring in site for Ghajn Tuffieha.</i></p> | <p>1. Beach cleaning was carried out by Public Cleansing personnel. Most of the litter in autumn and winter came ashore with the North Westerlies. The Manager requested from 4 bins at the start of summer to 18. Tourism supplied a total of 11 bins. 2. The Manager supplemented these with a bin at the small sandy beach beneath the Qarraba Peninsula, facing North and facing the main beach, as well as 8 plastic bins for waste fractions on the beach, thus reintroducing waste separation on the beach after a number of years. These were serviced by public cleansing.</p> | <p>Retain the bring in site at Ghajn Tuffieha Carpark. Subject to par 1. reintroduce beach and car park bins for waste fractions. Liaise with Tourism to</p> |

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| <p>3. Participation and organisation of Clean-ups</p> | <p>3. A skip was hired by the Manager and placed at Ghajn Tuffieha Car Park, to receive the waste fractions collected by public cleansing from Gaia's bins situated on the beach. The skip was serviced by a private contractor paid for by the Manager.</p> <p>2. Car park bins were serviced by the Mgarr Council. When not serviced, the rangers would call up the Council to contact its contractor. Here too 4 additional larg black bins were provided by the Manager, with the Council agreeing to instruct its contractor to service them regularly. The Rangers noticed a considerable improvement on the waste management of the car park and entrance to the dirt track this summer, owing to the introduction of these bins, following their first introduction in 2008.</p> <p>3. Another black bin was placed by the Manager by the bus stop to Xemxija, since this had become a mini waste depot, with commuters throwing away a large number of water bottles over the ledge onto the fields of Hal-Ferh. Unfortunately the Manager did not secure a servicing of this bin from the local councils. This part falls within the area of the Mellieha Local Council.</p> <p>3. The bring in site supplied by WasteServe was retained in 2009. This was used by the general public.</p> <p>4. Posidonia banquettes in accordance with the Conservation Order were once again allowed to develop on the small beach at south base of Il-Karraba-Isthmus.</p> <p>5. The Posidonia along the main beach has been removed by the tourism contractor from June to September when the accumulation reached points that created an inconvenience to bathers.</p> <p>6. 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>7. A number of beach clean ups were once again undertaken by Gaia and other volunteers throughout the year. 4 large industrial metal skips were hired for such purpose, and were filled accordingly.</p> <p>11. Mechanical sand sifting took place 3 times at Ghajn Tuffieha under the supervision of the Manager. Stones and pebbles were collected in small piles along the beach. These were manually selected from the rubbish collected from the machine and put back in situ. Gaia rangers supervised the sifting process throughout the whole night.</p> <p>12. A prototype of a manual sand sifter was designed and produced. Trials on the beach have been done. These can be used by public cleansing personnel and</p> | <p>ensure adequate beach cleaning and number of beach bins.</p> <p>Liaise with Mgarr Council to ensure regular servicing of car park bins.</p> <p>Place extra bins along the clay path and secluded beach beneath Qarraba.</p> <p>Maintain separated waste bins at Visitor Centre.</p> <p>Liaise with Tourism to remove Posidonia banquettes on main beach only in summer and when they pose an inconvenience to bathers.</p> <p>Place removed Posidonia in organic farm for fertiliser and mulching.</p> |

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| | <p>rangers to clear any part of the beach effected by eg bbq waste inappropriately disposed of in the sand.</p> <p>13. Problems developed in June when the police intercepted the dumper used by the beach cleansing team, and which was not covered by a road license. As a result the team was not in possession of a vehicle to transport the waste from the beach for about 5 weeks. During this time the Manager’s ranger assisted the beach cleaning team through the use of the Manager’s vehicle until such time as the beach cleaning team had a vehicle to work with. Initially the team did not inform the Manager that it could no longer use its dumper, and as a result waste bags were left on the beach until such time as the Manager took it in hand to have remove them.</p> | |
| <p>4.5 PROJECT APOLLO – Operation of Visitor Centres and Visitor Information</p> | | |
| <p>Ghajn Tuffieha Management Contract: “2.3 ... the management of Ghajn Tuffieha is taken to include: (ix) the running of a visitor centre on site”</p> | | |
| <p>1. Visitor interpretation boards at vantage points</p> | | |
| <p>1. Maintain and upgrade existing info panels. 2. Add new info panels re flora and fauna of Ghajn Tuffieha.</p> | <p>Ghajn Tuffieha</p> <p>1. All signs at the beach had to be redone because they were stolen during winter of 2008/9. These included site regulations, warning signs, notice to visitors, and the safety flag colour code.</p> <p>2. New signs of horse riding and no horse riding zones were also fixed up. This was needed since horse riding services outside the locality who were not familiar with the riding restrictions started frequenting the area, commissioned by eg young married couples. The signs clear designate the areas where riding is or is not permitted.</p> <p>3. An avifauna information board was produced (1m x 0.6m) and added to the panels exhibited during the day at the entrance to the beach near the kiosk.</p> | <p>Add information to welcome panel in line with blue flag criteria. Produce information panels for Ghajn Tuffieha Tower. Produce info panels for Dionysus Blue Flag Information Kiosk.</p> |
| <p>2. Visitor Centres</p> | | |

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| <p>1. Maintain Elysium visitor centre facilities for the promotion of environment education through activities like Cine Café, Gaiafest, open days.</p> <p>2. Organise tours and workshops at Elysium for local and foreign students and tourists.</p> <p>3. Install staircase at Ghajn Tuffieha tower as per Mepa permit issued to the Manager.</p> <p>4. Replace wooden door to Tower following vandalism to the old door.</p> <p>5. Secure annex to the tower with a wooden door.</p> <p>6. Apply to Mepa for the restoration of the sound locator at Hotba I-Bajda and for use as an apiary interpretation centre.</p> | <p>1. Tours and Workshops including voluntary work for tourists, school classes, students, and children groups were carried out in the Visitor Centre and throughout the nursery.</p> <p>2. Ongoing maintenance took place at the Visitor Centre to better promote organic and fair trade products. This included sanding and oiling of wood, membrane on the roofs, setting up shading for summer, and maintenance of reservoirs and water catchment areas. Extensive maintenance was carried out on the main reservoir.</p> <p>3. The Elysium Visitor centre organised and offered its amenities for meetings which were held here concerning the Majjistral Park. It also provided a base for the management of the Park and its personnel pending the setting up of a separate base for the Heritage Parks Federation.</p> <p>4. Ghajn Mixkuka (Tuffieha) Tower. A Mepa permit was obtained in 2003 for the installation of a staircase in the tower. This was installed in 2008 and work continued in 2009. Work commenced on Information panels on the tower and coastal fortifications, with a view to opening the tower to visitors in 2010.</p> <p>5. Sound locator at Hotba I-Bajda. Work commenced on an application to Mepa for the restoration of the sound locator, as per conservation order, and for its use as an apiary interpretation centre, with bee hives and info panels on the building and apiculture. Application was submitted in December.</p> <p>6. Tree nursery. Expanded the area to host more seedlings of indigenous and endemic shrubs and trees.</p> <p>7. Reservoir. Major work commenced on the fixing on our biggest reservoir at the centre. Work will be finished in October.</p> | <p>Conduct and host tours at Elysium Environment Visitor Centre.</p> <p>Carry out maintenance works on reservoirs, tree nursery and environment Centre.</p> <p>Host environment meetings at Elysium.</p> <p>Conduct educational workshops at Elysium.</p> <p>Finalise work on tower stairs installation.</p> <p>Upon approval of Mepa permit, carry out restoration works on sound locator & convert to apiary information centre.</p> <p>organise cinecafe in summer.</p> |

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| 4.6 PROJECT HERMES – Dissemination of information | | |
| <p>Conservation Order: “The Sound Locator, 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>Ghajn Tuffieha Management Contract: “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> | | |
| | | |
| 1. Holding of youth and educational activities | | |
| <p><i>1. organisation of workshops “becoming an eco citizen of the world”, for foreign student visitors.</i></p> <p><i>2. Further organisation of cleanups with students around the site.</i></p> <p><i>3. Continuation of the foreign volunteer programme, which complements the work of the permanent staff.</i></p> | <p>1. Clean-ups were organised throughout winter and summer to clean up the entire Ghajn Tuffieha site with the aid of local volunteers.</p> <p>2. A half day activity with the children of Centru Tbeix took place at Ghajn Tuffieha. Children were given a tour from the tower area down to the clay slopes. Explanation was given on the importance of the ecological site. After the tour other small activities which were related to blue flag commenced on the beach.</p> <p>3. EVS Foreign volunteers joined the project for 12 months each, 3 starting in July, and 3 in October. They combined academic and hands on work that served to enhance their education and give a boost to the project work.</p> <p>4. Commenced work on a redesign of a 3-gate leaflet to distribute to students.</p> <p>5. Commenced work on the information boards for the tower.</p> | <p>-</p> <p>1. Organise ecology workshops for local & foreign schools.</p> <p>2. Organise environment aware-ness activities, including cleanups, on site.</p> <p>3. Apply for volunteers through the EVS (EUPU) programme)</p> <p>4. Design, produce and disseminate tour brochure for Ghajn Tuffieha area.</p> <p>5. Design and produce new information boards for Dionysus information kiosk and protected site as part of beach</p> |

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| | | management and awareness. |
| 2. Public awareness building | | |
| <p>1. Continuation of the Adopt-a-Tree Campaign (Project Elysium)</p> <p>2. Further promotion of tree planting programmes around the North West</p> <p>3. Relaunch of CineCafe; a monthly event part of the Apollo Outreach programme. The aim behind the concept is to raise awareness on a number of environmental and holistic themes that don't often get addressed by mainstream cinema. The films are shown free of charge..</p> | <p>1. Refurbishment of the Elysium kiosk started during March and was finished in May. Information boards were placed around the kiosk on wooden stands.</p> <p>2. Promotion of the 'adopt a tree campaign', was given a different form this year. A push was given towards the adopt an olive tree for €14 and the adopter gets a 250ml pure extra virgin olive oil for free. Promotion was done with local and foreign visitors, to raise funds for the habitat restoration work.</p> <p>3. Promotion of organic agriculture with sale of organic produce from local farmers. Continued assistance was given to Challie Vella and Mario Grech. This included technical support regarding pest management and the purchase of their organic produce.</p> <p>4. The turquoise goddess was a joint event with Green Drinks and Challenge8000. Visitors were able to familiarise themselves with the centre, the Manager's work and environmental themes in general.</p> <p>5. Women Space, an MGRM yearly activity took place at the Gaia's visitor centre. More people got to know about The Gaia Foundation and the work we do.</p> <p>6. a joint activity took place on the beach in July with Centru Tbexbix. The activity involved disadvantaged children. Educational and environmental awareness games were organised on the beach for the children attending.</p> | <p>Refurbish and equip Dionysus Kiosk to include information materials and panels as part of beach management programme.</p> <p>Promote the agro environment around the protected sites with local farmers.</p> <p>Extend technical support to farmers in conversion to organic farming and cultivation of olive and almond groves.</p> <p>Promote use of indigenous plants.</p> <p>disseminate information re trees and woodlands regulations.</p> <p>Organise awareness activities in Spring/Summer.</p> |
| 3. Website | | |
| <p>1. Continuation of the upgrade of the main website,</p> | <p>Ghajn Tuffieha</p> <p>1. The comprehensive upgrade of the Gaia Website www.projectgaia.org which was</p> | <p>1. upgrade and maintain websites</p> |

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| <p>www.projectgaia.org to include updated material.</p> <p>2. Overhaul the layout and content of the gaiafest website www.gaiafest.org .</p> | <p>completed and launched at the end of April 2007 was updated throughout the year by the Manager’s own personnel.</p> | |
| 4. Information leaflets and other material | | |
| | <p>1.The Gaia Foundation 3-gate Brochure on the Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Maltese Islands, produced in 2007, was distributed in hotels in Salina, Qawra, Bugibba, St. Paul’s Bay, Mellieha, Marfa and at the Golden Bay Radisson Hotel. They were also distributed to students, at the Midas Shop, and at tours at Elysium visitor centre.</p> <p>2. A number of posters for online promotions were produced. These promoted; clean ups, events and the selling of organic produce.</p> <p>3. New logo design for our “Adopt an olive tree” scheme.</p> | <p>1. Disseminate full colour brochure with an overview of the various projects undertaken by the Manager.</p> <p>2. Design and produce general tour brochure for Ghajn Tuffieha.</p> |
| 5. Media | | |
| <p>1. promotion of coastal and environmental management in the local media</p> <p>2. Promotion of an awareness raising short film for international distribution, “Waking Up” produced in 2007</p> | <p>1. An explanation of the work done at the areas we managed was explained on a 40 minutes interview on a local radio station (RTK) with Ms. Sonia Young. Emphasis was made on the safety of the beaches, mentioning of the safety lines, site regulations, and other projects we undertake. Phone calls from the audience were also answered.</p> <p>2. The “Waking Up” 12 minutes awareness raising educational DVD was put online on the Facebook group page Gaia has. The theme is consuming with conscience; showing how one’s purchasing behaviour is interlinked and may have repercussions on animal welfare, environmental exploitation, climate change, sweatshops and fair trade. This is to be distributed in Maltese Schools and also world wide (until now in France). Work on a specific website for this short film will commence later this year.</p> <p>3. A new Facebook group page was set up for The Gaia Foundation. Ongoing monitoring is done in this group.</p> <p>4. We set up a new mailing list for our members. It has 1,000 e-mail addresses.</p> <p>5. A newsletter was designed to be distributed by e-mail to our members.</p> | <p>1. Disseminate 3 Life funded documentaries (2002) on coastal management, habitats and sustainable agriculture.</p> <p>2. Launch and promote the seven minute awareness raising educational DVD “Waking Up” on consuming with a conscience, showing how one’s purchasing behaviour is interlinked and may have repercussions on animal welfare, environmental exploitation, climate</p> |

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| | | change, sweatshops and fair trade. To be distributed in Maltese Schools and also world wide. |
| | | |
| 6. Dissemination of project results and experience to local and regional audience | | |
| <p><i>1. Participation in working groups with MEPA in order to further develop the management plan.</i></p> <p><i>2. Presentation of report January-December to MEPA and OPM.</i></p> <p><i>3. Publish updated activities and financial reports on www.projectgaia.org</i></p> | <p>Ghajn Tuffieha</p> <p>1. This Report for period January - December 200 is being submitted to MEPA, OPM, The Musarte Foundation, and posted online at www.projectgaia.org.</p> <p>2. Submission of financial reports for Jan- Dec 08 to MEPA, OPM and The Musarte Foundation.</p> <p>3. 2009 Audited management accounts were posted on the website. These have been made available to the public, in line with the Foundation's policy since 2000.</p> | <p>1. This report on the management of the sites & related activities is to be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Published on the website - sent to OPM - sent to MEPA - sent to Funders |
| 7. Project Funding | | |
| <p><i>1. Secure management fees on Ramla and Ghajn Tuffieha management contracts.</i></p> <p><i>2. Apply to Liberty / Continuendo MusartE Foundations for project grant.</i></p> <p><i>3. Liaise with tour operators for the organisation of workshops to foreign</i></p> | <p>Ghajn Tuffieha and Ramla</p> <p>1. Funds for financial year 2008 were obtained from the OPM based upon the Ghajn Tuffieha contract.</p> <p>Other funds were obtained from</p> <p>2. Continuendo MusartE Foundation (Netherlands) for a grant for the enhanced management of Ramla and Ghajn Tuffieha</p> <p>3. Sale of plants.</p> <p>4. Organisation of tours for foreign groups.</p> <p>5. Sale of organic and eco friendly products.</p> | <p>1. Submit application for funding from the EUPU, namely from the European Voluntary Service, which forms part of the youth programme, to finance volunteers to join the Gaia team for 6-12 months between 2010-2011.</p> <p>2. Submit application to Liberty / Continuendo MusartE Foundations for</p> |

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| <p><i>students.</i></p> <p>4. Promote the sale indigenous trees for landscaping projects.</p> <p>5. Submit application to EUPU for EVS grant.</p> | <p>6. Donations and tree adoptions</p> <p>7. MTA, in order to cover lifeguard costs.</p> <p>8. EUPU for funds to host 7 EVS volunteers between July 2009 and July 2010.</p> | <p>funds.</p> <p>3. liaise with OPM and Mepa re renewal of management agreements for 2010.</p> <p>4.Promote sale of trees</p> <p>5. Promote tours and workshops.</p> <p>6. Seek Govt support re waste management/public cleansing and lifeguard services.</p> <p>7. Seek sponsorship for opening of Tower</p> <p>8. Seek sponsorship for restoration of Sound Locator.</p> |