

Government of Gibraltar



Environment Charter Guiding Principles

For the Government and people of Gibraltar

1. To recognise that all people need a healthy living environment for their well-being and livelihood and that all can help to conserve and sustain it.
2. To use our natural resources sensibly, with regard to the needs of present and future generations.
3. To identify environmental opportunities, costs and risks in all policies and strategies.
4. To seek expert advice and consult with relevant parties on decisions affecting the environment.
5. To aim for solutions which benefit both the environment and development.
6. To contribute towards the protection and improvement of the global environment.
7. To safeguard and restore native species, habitats and landscape features, and control or eradicate invasive species.
8. To encourage activities and technologies that benefit the living environment.
9. To control pollution, with the polluter paying for prevention and remedies.
10. To study and celebrate our environmental heritage as a treasure to share with our children.

A blue ink signature of JJ Netto, written in a stylized, cursive script.

The Hon JJ Netto
Minister for the Environment

A blue ink signature of PR Caruana QC, written in a stylized, cursive script.

The Hon PR Caruana QC
Chief Minister

30th May 2006

Commitments

The Government of Gibraltar will:

1. Help build the capacity to support and implement an integrated environmental management system, which is consistent with Gibraltar's plans for sustainable development.
2. Involve different government departments, representatives of local industry and commerce, environment and heritage organisations, environmental campaigners and other community representatives to share their views on environmental issues in Gibraltar and take their opinions into consideration when formulating a detailed strategy for action.
3. Seek to ensure that all current and forthcoming environmental legislation is reviewed periodically and updated/transposed in a timely fashion.
4. Aim to ensure the protection and restoration of key habitats, species and landscape features through legislation and appropriate management structures and mechanisms, including a protected areas policy, and attempt the control and eradication of invasive species.
5. Where possible and reasonably practicable, ensure the extension of Multilateral Environmental Agreements to benefit Gibraltar's environment with due consideration to where and when Gibraltar has the reasonable capacity to implement such agreements.
6. Aim to ensure that environmental considerations are integrated with social and economic planning processes, promote sustainable patterns of production and consumption within Gibraltar through published government literature, advertising campaigns and school education programmes.
7. Upgrade and maintain the systems to ensure that Gibraltar has the legislation, institutional capacity (technology, equipment, procedures) and mechanisms it needs to meet international, community and local environmental obligations.
8. Commit to consultative decision-making on developments and plans which may affect the environment.
9. Promote better co-operation and the sharing of experience and expertise between Gibraltar and other countries that face similar environmental problems.

10. Implement effectively obligations under the Multilateral Environmental Agreements already extended to Gibraltar and work towards the extension of other relevant agreements.
11. Use local and international expertise to give advice and improve knowledge of technical and scientific issues. This includes consultation with interested non-governmental organisations and networks.
12. Review the range, quality and availability of baseline data for natural resources and biodiversity and where such data is unavailable, if possible, attempt to implement systems to cater for and allow the consistent generation of such data.
13. Commit local and EU/International funds to promote and implement projects of lasting benefit to Gibraltar's environment.
14. Ensure that legislation and policies reflect the principle that the polluter should pay for prevention or remedies; establish effective monitoring and enforcement mechanisms.
15. Help identify further funding partners for environmental projects, such as donors, the private sector or non-governmental organisations.
16. Encourage teaching within schools to promote value of our local living environment and to explain its role within the regional and global environment.
17. Recognise the diversity of socio-economic and environmental challenges facing Gibraltar and use these challenges to benefit the development and management of the living environment.
18. Promote publications that spread awareness of the special features of the environment in Gibraltar; promoting the guiding principles set out above.
19. Abide by the principles set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and work towards meeting Local, EU and International Development Targets on the environment.