



HM GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
MINISTRY FOR SPORTS, CULTURE, HERITAGE & YOUTH
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PRESS RELEASE

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Gibraltar Museum and Estación Biológica Doñana sign landmark agreement

Gibraltar Minister for Health and Environment, the Honourable Dr John Cortes and Doña Esperanza Perea Acosta, Directora General de Medio Natural of the Junta de Andalucía, will be giving a press conference at the Palacio de Doñana on Monday 29th October 2012 at 1300 hours. Dr Cortes will be accompanied by a delegation from the Gibraltar Museum headed by Professor Clive Finlayson. Dr Juan Jose Negro, Director of the Estacion Biológica de Doñana will host the event.

The purpose of the press conference is to inform media of a framework agreement that has been recently signed by the Directors of the Estación Biológica de Doñana and the Gibraltar Museum. The agreement opens the door to formal collaboration between the two prestigious institutions in the fields of research and conservation. The main work will involve connecting Gorham's Cave in Gibraltar with the Reserva Biológica de Doñana. The two institutions have already collaborated in work related to these two sites, the latest, a paper published last month in the international journal PLoS on the use of feathers by Neanderthals. The collaboration hopes to use the current ecosystems at Doñana as proxies for the sand dune coastal shelf that Neanderthals exploited off Gibraltar 30 thousand years ago. The information coming from archaeological work at Gorham's Cave will also be used to establish the expected pre-human intervention state of Doñana, with important conservation management implications. In this respect, preliminary results will be presented that take the human occupation of Doñana back into pre-history, to remote times unsuspected until now.