



GOVERNMENT OF GIBRALTAR
OFFICE OF THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT
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Government releases Upper Rock Report

A report on the Upper Rock Nature Reserve which the former GSD administration had not made public for six years has been released today by Minister for the Environment Dr John Cortes. This is in line with the new Government's philosophy of openness and transparency.

The report, prepared in 2005, was part of an EU co-funded project which was researched and written by Charles Perez and Dr Keith Bensusan of the Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society (GONHS) and presented to the Government at the time.

While Government officials looked into the report, no reply was very forthcoming nor was the report made public or given its full credit.

The Report, entitled Upper Rock Nature Reserve - A Management and Action Plan, runs to nearly 300 pages and includes many photographs. It was prepared following interviews with many stakeholders and considerable original research, including traffic surveys.

The new Government is pleased to release it to the public. It does not constitute Government policy on the Upper Rock, and is just one of the documents it will consider in formulating a plan for the area, but it wishes to acknowledge and recognize the work involved in producing it and the amount of information contained. The document will be of interest to many, including those interested in natural history, and to educationalists.

Minister for the Environment John Cortes commented, "Government will soon be calling for members of the public, organisations, commercial entities and others to submit their ideas on the future of the Upper Rock, just as it has done on marine issues and on traffic. The report released today is only one of the many documents

that will be considered, but it is only right and proper that such a work, which is of general interest to the community, should be placed in the public domain. "

Copies of the publication are available at the Department of the Environment in Duke of Kent House, the Nature Shop in Casemates, and will be available on the Government website and the GONHS website.