

Thinking Green Digest 2018



Department of the Environment,
Sustainability, Climate Change
and Heritage

HM Government of Gibraltar



Thinking Green

Digest 2018

Produced by the Department of the Environment,
Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage (DESCCH).

This document aims to present an overview of some of the
work carried out during 2018 by DESCCH, as well as
significant information relating to our environment.

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Minister's Foreword

2018 was another year of intense activity for the Department of the Environment and Climate Change. The Digest captures some of the highlights, emphasizing outreach and educational work, which is the basis of a good understanding of the environment and of environmental governance.

As with everything else Environment, we need to do more. It is essential that everyone understands the pressures that the planet, and indeed our own community, is under as we grapple with wanting to improve quality of life and the absolute necessity not just of protecting what there is, but of reversing trends of recent decades. Government needs to assume a large measure of responsibility by showing leadership and determination, but it is the citizens who are key. As individuals, collectives, businesses or charitable organisations, we must all play our part in stepping up to the challenge.

This Digest shows that every bit helps. Now let's go and do more.....



Best Wishes,

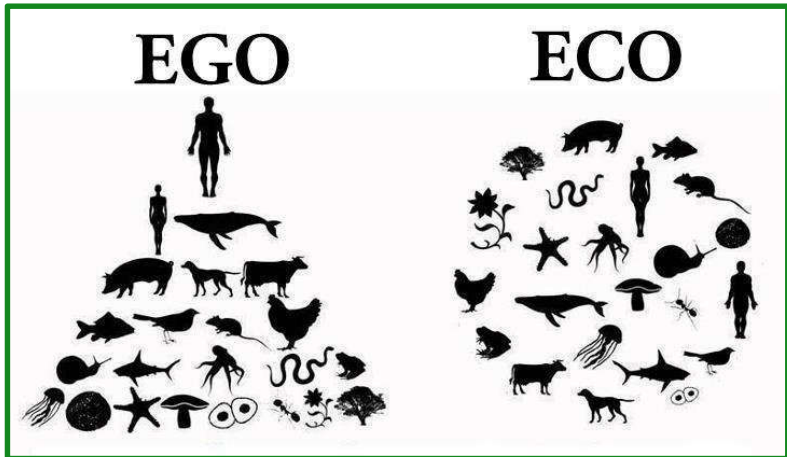
Prof. John Cortes MBE, C.Env

Minister for Environment, Sustainability, Climate Change and Heritage

Our Natural Environment

"Progress is impossible without change, and those who cannot change their minds cannot change anything."

George Bernard Shaw



The human race is facing a sort of problem it has never been up against before. Not only are the implications of Climate Change enormous, but the general public also seems unwilling to look the problem in the eye. Drastic action is going to have to be taken at some point in the future, but without public support, governments will have a hard time being able to do anything significant. The first step should be to say "Hey! This is really happening!"

It is a whole lot easier to take action if everyone agrees there is actually something to take action about!

Jensen McKay

Utah, 2014

Nature Reserve Improvement Works

In line with the Government's ongoing programme to beautify and improve the Gibraltar Nature Reserve, further works were carried out during 2018.

Both the Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Team and specialist contractors carried out improvement works in different parts of the reserve. Works at Mediterranean Steps were completed early in 2018, aimed at improving the safety of a section of the popular path that was giving cause for concern due to shifting gravel.

Work was also done at St. Michael's Road where the existing balustrades were removed and new ones installed in keeping with the revamped design for the Upper Rock. These works have resulted in a much needed improvement to the area and complement works already carried out at Douglas Path and Skywalk. Replacement of further damaged balustrades continues on a phased basis.

General maintenance works are scheduled on a regular basis with particular emphasis placed on upgrading picnic areas, installing new bins and creating new habitats to increase biodiversity.

Other areas within, and outside, the Reserve are also tackled including Europa Foreshore, green areas near Europa Advance Road, and the Northern Talus.



Lower St. Michael's Cave

During 2018, the first phase of a project to revamp the extraordinary Lower St. Michael's Cave was completed.

This phase of works included a major clean-up of the Cave. The old electrical cabling and conduit system were removed and new LED lighting installed along the main entrance and throughout the Cave. In order to assist them in conducting the tours, guides have been provided with an office and storage facilities for equipment.

The phases to follow will see information panels at the entrance of the Cave providing details about the history of Lower St Michael's, rock formations and general information. There will also be improved access to the pathway leading up to the entrance of the Cave as well as a new staircase inside the cave at the start of the tour.

These are all improvements that DESCCH believes will enhance the visitor experience.

Two of the tour guides who have been very involved with this project, Michael Sene and John Barabich, have voluntarily been giving their time and maintaining the cave over the years.



Lower St. Michael's Cave is not open to the public and can only be visited by pre-booking a tour with a qualified guide. Tours normally last around 3 hours.

For more information or to arrange a tour please contact any of the qualified guides listed on the Gibraltar Tourist Board website at www.visitgibraltar.gi

Europa Point Outdoor Interpretation and Green Area

A new outdoor interpretation and green area at Europa Point was formally opened on World Environment Day by Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change, Prof. John Cortes.

The area, on the site of the former 'du Farol' outlet had been put out for expressions of interest for development but HM Government of Gibraltar (HM GoG) decided instead to convert it into an open green area and to use the existing magazine to hold panels with information on the heritage and wildlife both of Europa Point and the nearby Gorham's Cave Complex World Heritage site.

The panels were designed by members of DESCCH, the Gibraltar Museum and World Heritage Site, the Gibraltar Heritage Trust and the Gibraltar Ornithological & Natural History Society (GONHS).

The planting of the green area was carried out in stages, with hardy local species grown off-site first to ensure they were established, and plants transplanted from nearby sites such as Brewery Crusher.

There are paths through the site, as well as benches where visitors can sit and enjoy the magnificent views across the Strait.



World Wildlife Day

3rd March was designated World Wildlife Day by the United Nations General Assembly in order to celebrate and raise awareness of the world's wild fauna and flora. The General Assembly also recognised the important role of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in ensuring that international trade does not threaten the survival of species.

DESCCH took part in celebrating World Wildlife Day at the Gustavo Bacarissas Gallery, Casemates, on Saturday 3rd March. The theme for 2018 was: *Big Cats – predators under threat.*

The awareness day was well received by the public and all who took part.





Snow Leopard populations are suspected to have declined by at least 20% in under two decades, although estimating population numbers is tricky because these cats are so elusive.



Overseas Territories Council of Environment Ministers

Minister for Environment and Climate Change Prof. John Cortes co-chaired a meeting of the Council of Environment Ministers of the U.K. Overseas territories and Crown Dependencies held in Douglas on the Isle of Man. The meeting was hosted by the Isle of Man Government, whose Minister for Environment the Hon Geoffrey Boot co-chaired the two-day event.

Thirteen territories were represented, and discussed a wide range of issues centering round the Environment. These included Climate Change, severe weather events, sustainable development, biodiversity, renewable energy, funding, Brexit, plastic pollution and the protection of the oceans.

The Council was joined on the second day by officials from three U.K. Government departments, including Mr. Ben Merrick, Director Overseas Territories at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Dr. Gemma Harper, Deputy Director for Marine from the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA), and Mr. Huw Davis, Deputy Head of UNFCCC Negotiations representing the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy.

The Under-Secretary of State for the Environment, Dr Therese Coffey, joined the meeting by Skype. This was the first time that a UK Minister had directly participated in a meeting of the Council, which was originally set up in Gibraltar in 2015.

The aim of the Council is to bring together Ministers and equivalents and senior officials from all the UK Overseas jurisdictions, including Crown Dependencies, in order to work together to improve environmental governance and sustainable development, and to engage the UK Government as appropriate. Increasingly also, and particularly at this meeting, the role of this collective, with representation from across the globe, in making a difference at a global level, was emphasized. In particular, as most of the territories are islands or near-islands, the importance of the oceans was highlighted. The Council agreed to support efforts to reduce plastic pollution, and to promote environmental protection in those British Territories that do not have permanent human habitation. These include the British Indian Ocean Territories around Chagos, and in the Atlantic they include South Georgia, the South Sandwich Islands, and the British Antarctic Territory.

Taken together, this gives the UK responsibility for hundreds of square kilometers of ocean, including some of the world's major coral reefs and a large section of Southern Ocean.

Considerable progress towards the aims was made at the meeting, including an invitation extended to the Ministers from these territories to contribute towards the UK's position on the environment at the forthcoming Commonwealth Summit in London.

While at the Meeting, the representative from Turks & Caicos, the Hon Minister Ralph Higgs, on behalf of the people of Turks & Caicos, personally thanked the people of Gibraltar, through Minister Cortes, for the help sent to the island at the time of the hurricane towards the end of 2017.

Audio Tours introduced at World War (WW) II Tunnels

Audio tours have been introduced at the World War II tunnels tourist site, which allows visitors to enjoy the tunnels in six different languages. The feature has been introduced following a research programme by local historians and an audio installation by Sound Reinforcement Systems. The new facility was launched on the 15th March by Prof. John Cortes.





Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Season

Open season for Bluefin tuna in BGTW commenced on Saturday 16th June 2018 and ended on the 14th October 2018. A total allowable catch (TAC) of 15.5 tonnes was set for the season.

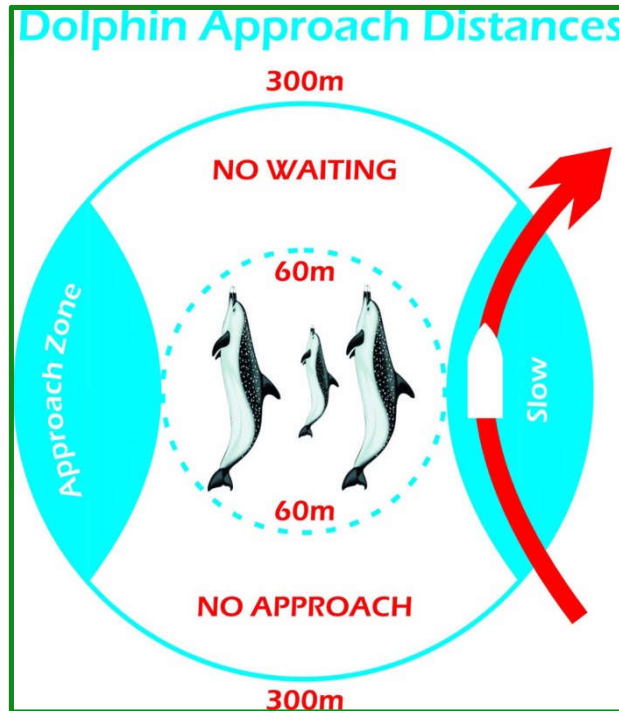
Anglers were once again reminded that a Class K license is required to fish for Bluefin tuna.

DESCCH informed anglers that the 2018 open fishing season would see the introduction of a number of further conservation measures including the possibility of temporary technical season closures. A temporary suspension ran from Tuesday 10th July 2018 to Monday 6th August 2018, both days inclusive. This action was taken in view of the fact that catches had been high in the early part of the season, exceeding 10 tonnes.

In addition, anglers were informed of the requirement to report any recreational catches of Billfish species, such as the Mediterranean Swordfish, which are classified as Species in Need of Strict Protection in Gibraltar.

Cetacean Protocol

Recreational boat users are reminded of the need to adhere to the Cetacean Protocol. The Department's Environmental Protection & Research Unit (EPRU) closely monitors vessel activity within BGTW to ensure that the requirements of the Protocol are being met.



Vessels are required to maintain a minimum distance of 60 metres from any dolphin or whale whilst navigating in BGTW. The Protocol also establishes a 500 metres radius from the animals within which vessels must travel at a constant speed of no more than 4 knots or no greater than the slowest animal in the group.

Anglers targeting Bluefin tuna were advised that casting any lies close to dolphins, which are a protected species, may result in their fishing licenses being revoked.



Photo taken by: Rocío Espada

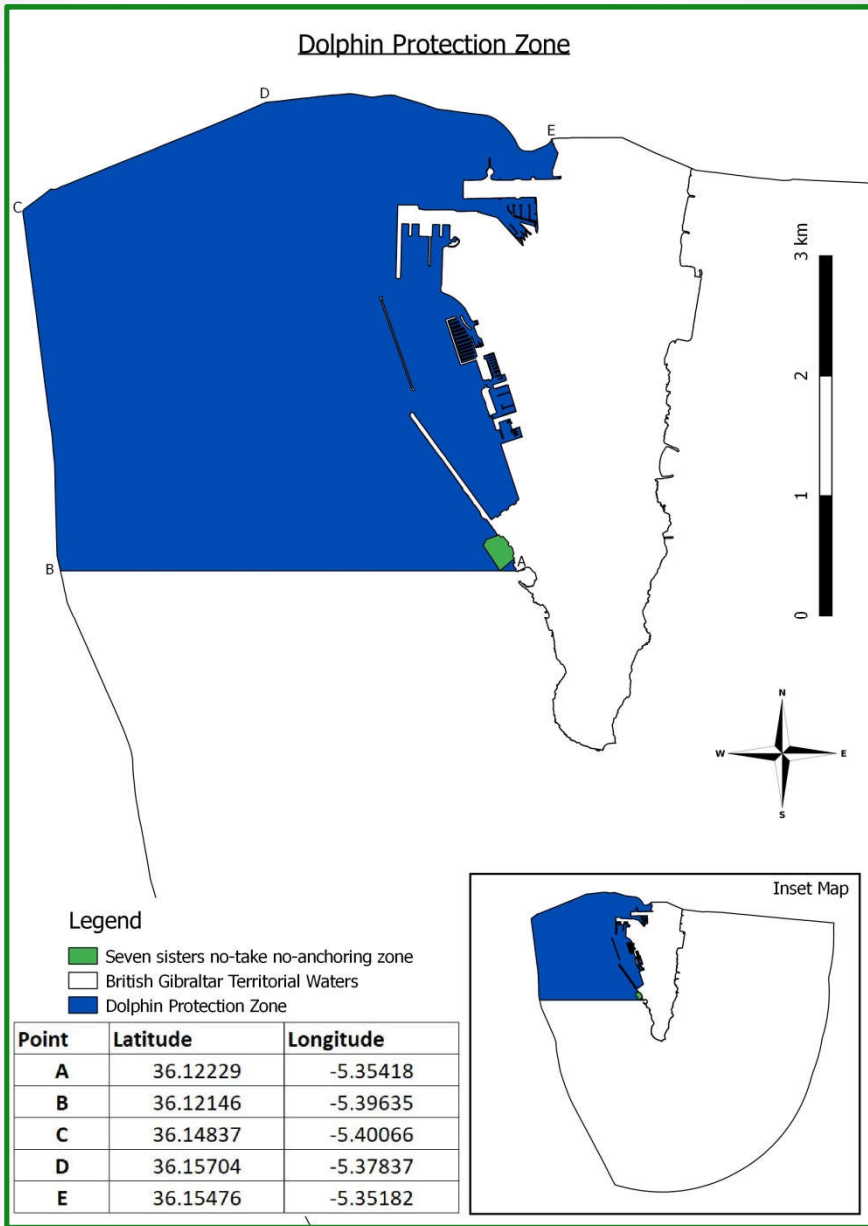
For further information on the Cetacean Protocol or report any breaches of the Protocol, please contact the Department's EPRU on 58009620.

New Dolphin Protection Zone

DESCCH announced the creation of a Dolphin Protection Zone in the north of British Gibraltar Territorial Waters (BGTW) within the Bay of Gibraltar. This area will form part of the conservation measures intended to provide a refuge for dolphins which frequent our waters. As such, the practice of 'popping' for tuna, which has been seen to cause serious injury to dolphins will not be allowed in the Bay within BGTW approximately north of Rosia Bay.

Popping involves casting lines and lures with hooks into shoals of tuna which are often mixed with dolphins. Other fishing methods will continue to be allowed within the newly created Dolphin Protection Zone.





Urban Wildlife Conservation Guide

An Urban Wildlife Conservation Guide was prepared and published under the title of Planning for Biodiversity by DESCCH.

The guide provides information on most of the wildlife species that live in Gibraltar's urban areas, such as swifts and bats, and provides advice on what steps can be taken to encourage them to succeed in this environment.

Information is provided on subjects such as providing bird nesting boxes and feeders, bat roosting sites, and 'insect hotels', as well as on green and brown roofs and living walls. Copies of the printed version can be obtained from the Department's offices at Leanse Place or accessed online at:

[www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG_Documents/2018-Urban Wildlife Conservation Guide.pdf](http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi/new/sites/default/files/HMGoG_Documents/2018-Urban_Wildlife_Conservation_Guide.pdf)



Department of the Environment,
Heritage and Climate Change
HM Government of Gibraltar



Planning for Biodiversity

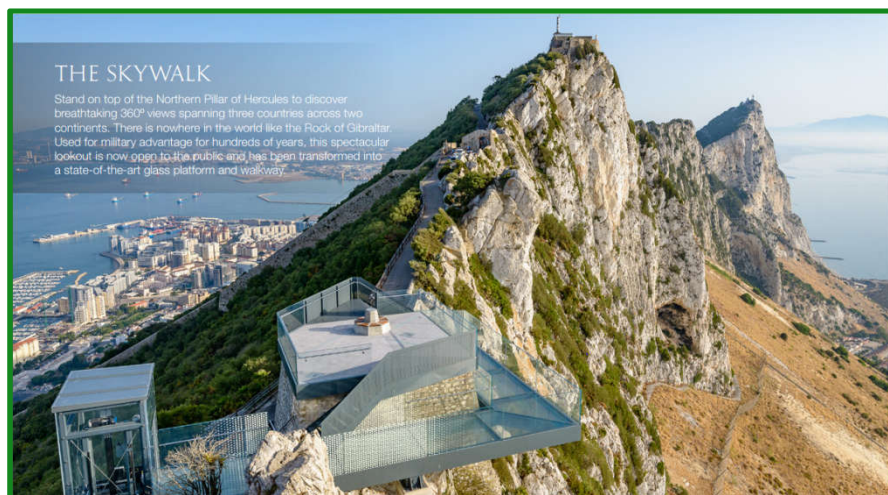


Urban Wildlife Conservation Guide

Version 1

Upper Rock Skywalk

Standing 340 metres directly above sea level, the Skywalk is higher than the tallest point of London's The Shard. Gibraltar's Skywalk offers breath-taking 360 degree views spanning three countries and two continents. The Skywalk is one of Gibraltar's premier tourist attractions, and links to other sites within the Upper Rock Nature Reserve including the thrilling Windsor Suspension Bridge and the famous Apes' Den via a series of walking trails.



Built on the foundations of an existing WWII base structure, the Skywalk is designed to withstand wind speeds of over 150km/hour and can carry the weight of 5 Asian elephants, or 340 people, standing on it at the same time (visitor numbers are limited to 50 individuals at any one time). The floor and balustrade panels are made up of four layers of laminated glass (with a total thickness of around 4.2cm).



Laid out side-by-side, the 42 glass panels would cover more than 750m², roughly the equivalent of 4 tennis courts. The walkway is 2.5m wide and projects a maximum of 6.7m from the main structural support point. 70m of rock anchors and 30,000kg of steel secure the Skywalk to the Rock.

Flanked by Boogie Storm, the dance group famous for their tight routines performed in iconic Storm trooper outfits, Mark Hamill, who played Luke Skywalker in the Star Wars Movies, officially declared the Skywalk open on Wednesday 21st March 2018. Ceremonially cutting the red ribbon with a 'lightsaber', Mr. Hamill announced: "the Force is strong with the Skywalk".

Tree Planting Initiative Continued

During March-April 2018 75 Norfolk Island Pines (*Araucaria heterophylla*) were planted in North Front Cemetery, continuing the works to improve the landscaping there.

In addition, 18 Cork Oaks (*Quercus suber*) were planted in Edinburgh Estate and two wild pear trees in Witham's Road.

In the Cumberland Road area, nine orange trees that had been damaged by wind were replaced with the wind resistant New Zealand Christmas Tree (*Metrosideros excelsa*). The orange trees were cared for and will be planted out in more suitable areas once they recover.

Green Gibraltar Award 2018

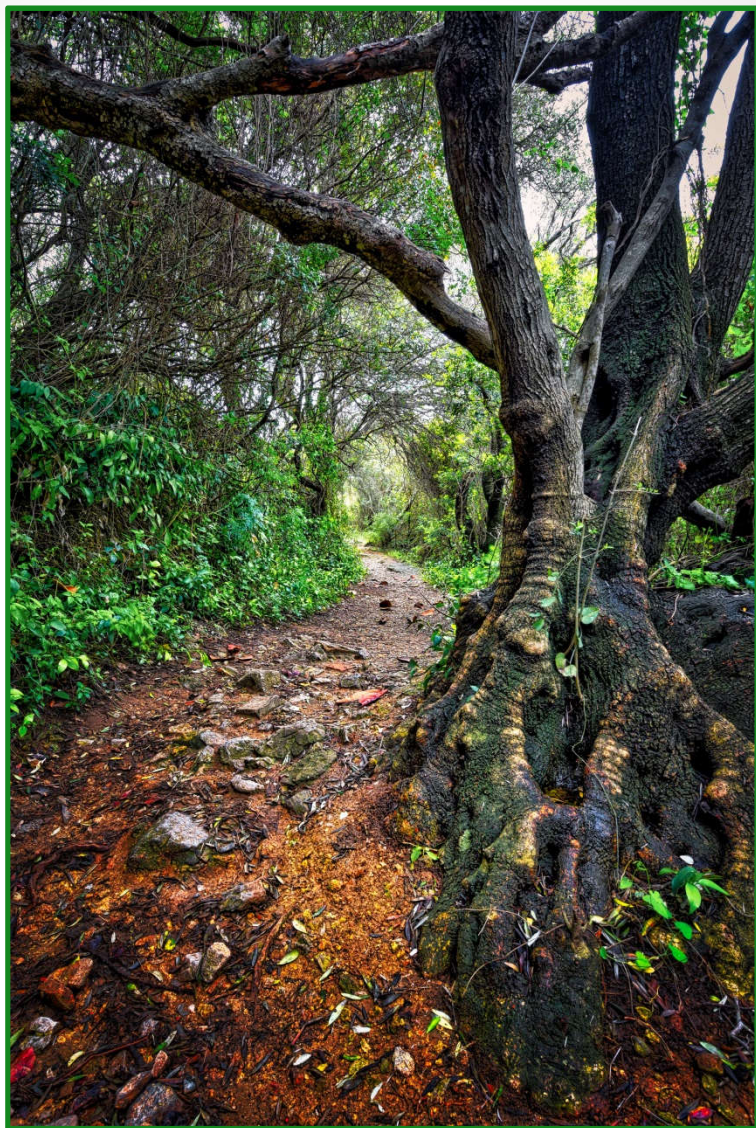
The International Garden Photographer of the Year (IGPOTY) exhibition returned to Gibraltar for 2018, with the world's best photography of plants, gardens and green spaces.

As part of the exhibition, the Green Gibraltar Award featured once again.

This special award seeks to: highlight the diversity of Gibraltar and bring it to the world's attention, broaden public understanding of nature in Gibraltar, and showcase the botanical beauty of The Rock. Numerous entries were received and three winners were chosen.

Three further commendations were also presented to under-18 year olds as these were considered worthy of mention.

A presentation took place on Tuesday 24th July at the Rotunda above the Lion's pond within the Alameda Gardens, where the winners and commendations were presented with their awards.



1st Place: Ernest Martinez

Location: Entrance to Mediterranean Steps.



2nd Place: Gerry Fagan

Name of Entry: Dandelion

Location: Alameda Gardens



3rd Place: Monica McMahon

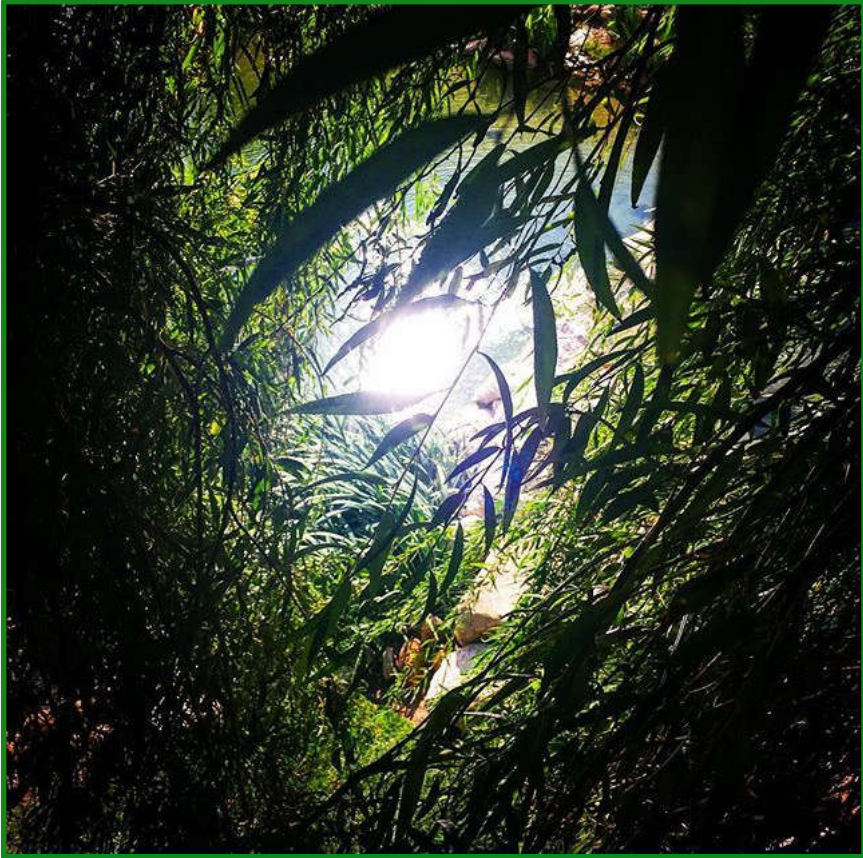
Name of Entry: Early Morning Dew on a white Narcissus

Location: Upper Rock Nature Reserve



Commendation 1: Ella Montegriffo

Name of Entry: Rainforest



Commendation 2: Ben Parkin

Name of Entry: Breakthrough



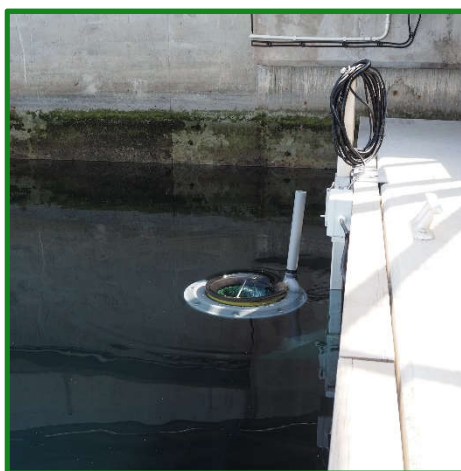
Commendation 3: Alexander Sanchez Soiza

Name of Entry: A measure of Tranquility

Gibraltar's First Seabin

DESCCH installed Gibraltar's first Seabin at the Small Boats Marina towards the end of the summer season. The Seabin is a floating debris interception device that collects litter by drawing in water from the sea surface which then passes through a catch bag. Each device has the ability to collect over half a ton of floating debris per year including micro plastics that are up to 2mm small.

DESCCH liaised closely with the Small Boats Marina committee and its Captain to identify the most effective location for collecting floating litter whilst not impeding the maneuverability of any vessels. It is hoped that the Seabin Pilot Project will encourage the deployment of Seabins in all of Gibraltar's marinas and help continue to raise awareness on the impacts of plastic pollution.



Air Quality

Gibraltar faces significant challenges in improving ambient air quality due to its small size and the fact that all activity takes place within a limited area. It must contend with emissions from vehicles, older industrial facilities as well as significant transfrontier air pollution. Gibraltar has an air quality monitoring programme which allows it to monitor compliance with EU Directives on air quality.

HM GoG seeks to encourage modes of transport that reduce dependence on private vehicles by promoting public transport, walking and cycling.

The current traffic problems in Gibraltar contribute to environmental noise and air pollution and decrease quality of life for residents. These problems have historically been tackled through the creation of more infrastructure but there are limits to Gibraltar's capacity for growth in this respect, therefore other ways of tackling the problem are needed.

No Idling signs at all Bus Terminals

The Ministry of Infrastructure and Planning, in conjunction with DESCCH, were pleased to announce the installation of “No Bus Idling” signs at all bus terminals throughout Gibraltar.

Other significant benefits of not idling will include a reduction in both fuel consumption and carbon emissions of the bus fleet.



Electric Vehicle Charging Stations

Electric vehicle charging stations were launched at the Midtown Car Park in May 2018.

This initiative forms part of the continued development of HM GoG's Sustainable Traffic, Transport and Parking Plan, being consistent with DESCCH's Thinking Green Environmental Awareness campaign.

The facility offers electrical charging at two purpose-built parking bays set aside for electric vehicles. The bays are equipped with CirControl CirCarLife Recharging System Wall Box Smart units which work with a Type 2 (UNE EN 62196-6) charging socket and provide an output AC voltage 230V AC 1P+N+PE, a rated output of 7.2kW and a rated output current of 32A. Midtown car park has additional charging stations that will be put into service as demand increases.

DESCCH 'electrifies' its motorcycle fleet

In keeping with HM GoG's policy to reduce the emissions produced by its vehicle fleet and thereby improve air quality, DESCCH began replacing its fossil-fueled motorcycles with electric motorcycles.

The motorcycles can carry two passengers and can go up to speeds of 50 kilometers per hour, which is within the speed limit in Gibraltar. The battery covers a distance of approximately 100 kilometers and can be easily removed for charging.

The electrification of the Department's vehicle fleet is one of a set of measures adopted by DESCCH to improve its environmental performance by reducing its transport carbon footprint.

It is hoped that the initiative will also encourage other entities who are reliant on motorized transport to follow suit and in doing so, help raise awareness on more sustainable modes of transport in Gibraltar.

Energy



© WWF / Nina Munn



Earth Hour



Earth Hour is a global environmental movement of WWF that mobilises hundreds of millions of people to make a difference for the planet. Its core vision is to create environmental impact by utilizing the power of the crowd.

The massive global movement, which began as a simple lights-off event in Sydney in 2007, has grown to engage hundreds of millions of supporters in more than 7000 cities and towns in over 172 countries and territories worldwide. From Sydney Opera House to the Eiffel Tower; from the Empire State Building to Big Ben; nearly all major landmarks across the globe take part each year, including Gibraltar.

Earth Hour was celebrated on the 24th March 2018, between 8.30pm and 9.30pm. In a huge symbolic display, lights across the globe were switched off for one hour in a show of solidarity in the fight against climate change.

In Gibraltar, our iconic Moorish Castle and North Face of the Rock remained unilluminated for the entire weekend in an extended celebration of WWF's Earth Hour.

The community, including shops and businesses, was also encouraged to switch off all non-essential lighting. Restaurants supporting the 'Switch Off' initiative to raise awareness on climate change did so by hosting a candle-lit dinner.

Why do we celebrate Earth Hour?

Our planet, our home, is in danger. A lot of the wildlife we love, from snow leopards and polar bears to rhinos and elephants, are seriously threatened by the pressures we are putting on our planet. We are seeing our oceans over-exploited and suffocated by plastic and we are cutting down vast swathes of forests to make room for crops and livestock to feed us.

The damage has been shockingly fast. Over the last 25-30 years we have seen:

- A decline of 80% of freshwater species
- A decline of over 50% of populations of land species
- 40% of our forests have disappeared to agricultural land with 15 million trees lost each year just for soy production

- 1 in 6 of the planet's species are at risk of extinction from climate change

(Source: WWF-UK Living Planet Report)

Big impacts start with small steps and Earth Hour proves that people do have the power and influence when they come together. Supporting Earth Hour has already helped influence climate change policy in various countries across the world.

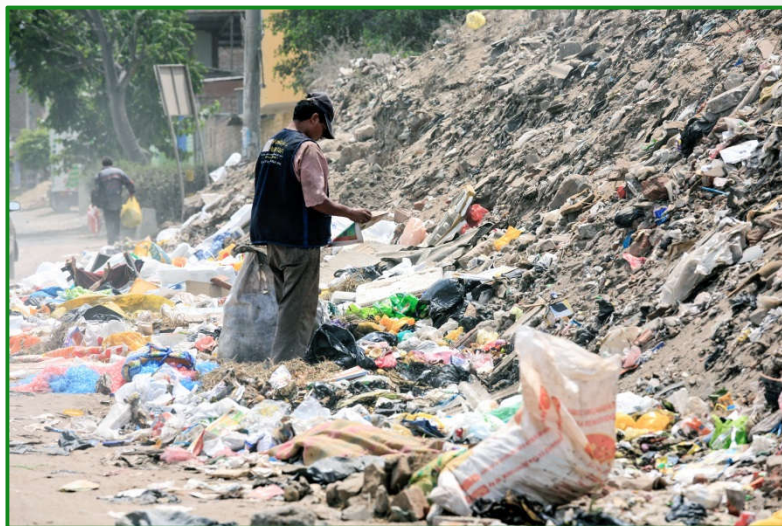


Waste

With approximately 75 per cent of our rubbish generated by packaging, a few simple steps – buying loose fruit and veg, choosing products with recyclable packaging, and avoiding individually wrapped portions – can have a big impact.

Sheherazade Goldsmith





The continuous growth in the amount of solid waste that humans produce, and the very slow rate at which that waste degrades, are together leading to a gradual increase in the amount litter found at sea, on the seafloor and along coastlines and on land around the world.

Human activities on land are the biggest sources of marine pollution. These include the dumping of waste along coastlines, littering on beaches, and the breaking down of ships. Floods and other storm-related events flush this waste into the sea, where it sinks or is carried away by currents. The major sea-based sources of marine pollution include discarded fishing gear, shipping activities, and legal and illegal dumping.

An estimated 8 million tons of plastic waste enter the world's oceans each year.

All of this pollution causes serious economic losses. Coastal communities are facing increased expenditure on beach cleaning, public health and waste disposal. The shipping industry is impacted by higher costs associated with fouled propellers, damaged engines, and managing waste in Harbours.

Marine pollution also causes biodiversity loss and hampers ecosystem functions and services. Discarded fishing gear can entangle and kill marine life and smother wildlife habitats. Pesticides and other toxins adhere to tiny particles of discarded plastics (microplastics), which can be ingested by small aquatic life. Once ingested, the toxins bio-magnify as they move up the food chain, accumulating in birds, sea life and possibly humans.

UN Environment's Global Programme of Action for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities, which has been active since 1995, aims to provide guidance to national and regional authorities on how to prevent, reduce, control and eliminate marine degradation from land-based activities.

Launched in 2017, UN Environment's #CleanSeas campaign is urging governments to enact policies to reduce the use of plastic; targeting industry to minimise plastic packaging and redesign products; and calling on consumers to change their throwaway habits – before irreversible damage is done to our seas. We also work through our Regional Seas programme to strengthen marine protections around the world.



Christmas tree Recycling Initiative

The Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change once again introduced a Christmas tree recycling programme for the disposal of real Christmas trees. Recycling trees, or turning them into mulch, is an effective way to give back to the environment after the festive period by minimising the amount of waste going to landfill. Mulching trees can also be used to help protect soils in Gibraltar's green areas such as parks and gardens.

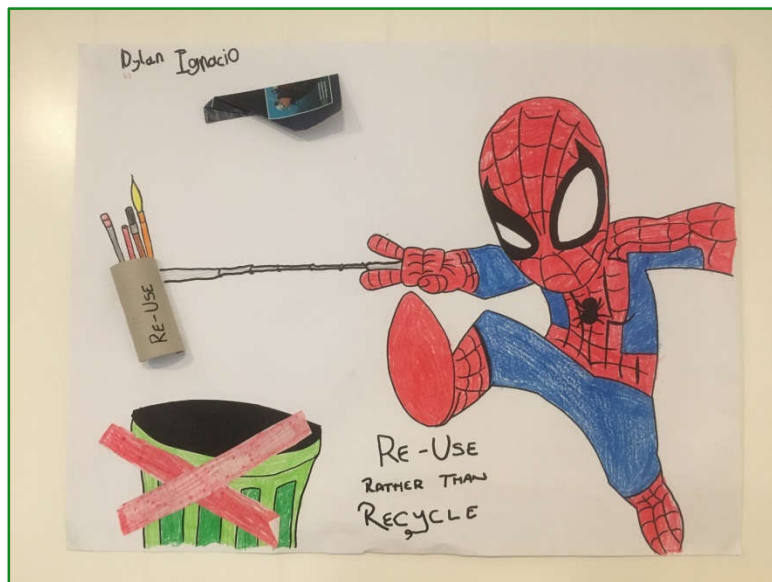


St. Joseph's Primary School's take on Waste

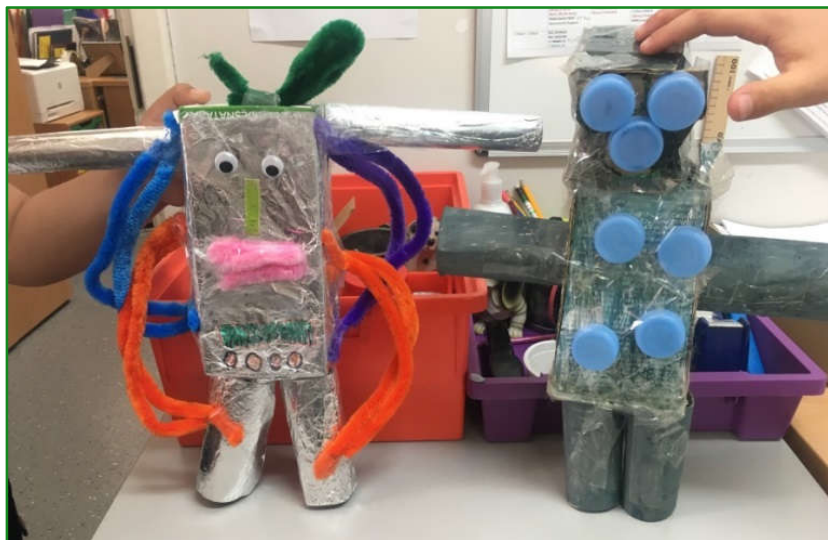
New environmental initiatives were implemented at St. Joseph's First School during 2018. These included a Sustainable Garden Area, Recycling of plastic bottles during break times and only using re-usable drinks bottles during lunch times.



The students also produced a variety of environmentally-aware posters highlighting environmental concerns at home. These were brought into school and are on permanent display throughout the Lunch Hall.



In addition, the school has also seen a substantial increase in 'junk modelling'. Whilst this encourages the re-use of items destined for disposal or recycling, it has additional benefits for the school including the need for fewer financial resources to be spent on art materials for students.



All these initiatives were followed up with a visit by the students to the Civic Amenities Site where a wealth of information was presented on all the waste streams the site collects separately.





Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change

HM Government of Gibraltar

Civic Amenities Site

Opening Hours*:

• **8am—8pm** Monday to Friday

• **9am—5pm** Saturday and Sunday

* Except on Christmas Day, New Years Day and National Day

All types of **HOUSEHOLD** waste highlighted below are accepted at the site:



Bulky items &
furniture



Waste electrical &
electronic equipment
WEEE



Paints



Scrap metal



Glass items



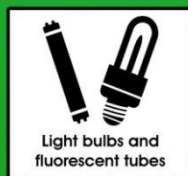
Items made
of plastic



Ink and toner
cartridges



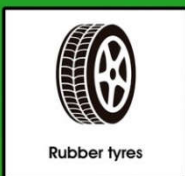
Batteries



Light bulbs and
fluorescent tubes



Household rubble



Rubber tyres



Cooking Oil

Should you require any further information please contact:

Department of the Environment Heritage and Climate Change (DEHCC)

Email: info.environment@gibraltar.gov.gi Phone: (+350) 20065964

Gibraltar General Support Services (GGSS) Ltd Yard:

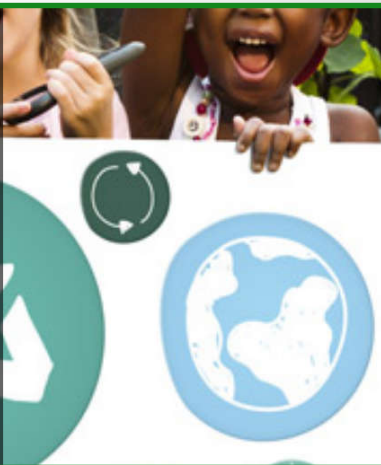
Phone: (+350) 20047015

Educational Awareness

Environmental education explains how natural environments function and, in particular, how human beings can seek to manage their behaviour and ecosystems in order to live sustainably. It refers not only to education within the school system but also to all efforts to educate the public, including print materials, websites and media campaigns. DESCCH considers educational awareness of utmost importance and devotes a major part of its efforts to ensuring education works towards creating a better and more sustainable environment.

Education

Environmental education explains how natural environments function and, in particular, how human beings can seek to manage their behaviour and ecosystems in order to live sustainably. It refers not only to education within the school system but also to all efforts to educate the public. We consider educational awareness of utmost importance and devote a major part of our efforts to creating a better and more sustainable environment.



KidsZone

Welcome to our KidsZone area where you can find loads of cool facts and important information about Gibraltar's local environment.

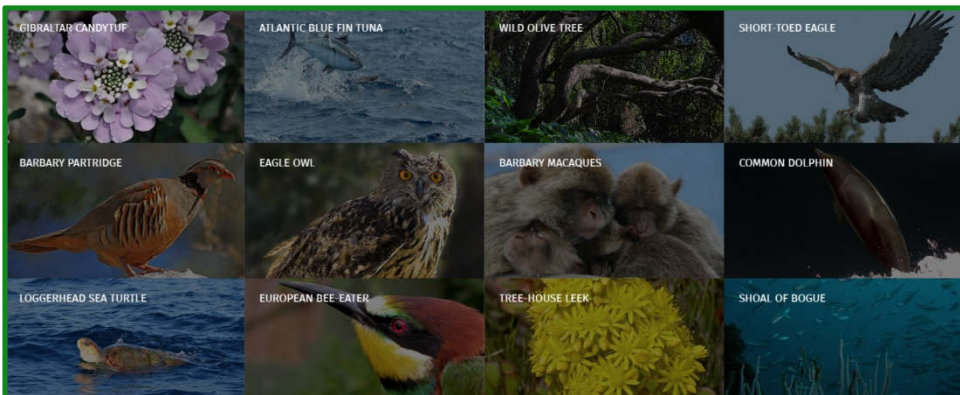
Gibraltar has a unique environment which can be found nowhere else in the world. This makes us, and the place we live in, VERY special.

Did you know that Gibraltar's Monkeys are the last primate in Europe living in the wild?

How about the fact that hidden wonders lie in our waters, including fantastic coral reefs?

Humans have built, and live, on most of Gibraltar's land. Although we may not realise it, there is a lot of life that shares this space with us. Click on any of the pictures below to find out more about some of the interesting wildlife we can find in Gibraltar:

[READ MORE](#)



World Environment Day

World Environment Day (WED) is an annual event which aims to be the biggest and most widely celebrated global day for positive environmental action. WED activities take place all year round but culminates on 5th June every year, involving people from all over the world.

WED celebrations began in 1972 and have grown to become one of the main vehicles through which the UN stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and encourages political attention and action. Gibraltar has now been taking part in the WED celebrations for many years. Through WED, the UN Environment Programme is able to personalise environmental issues and enable everyone to realise not only their responsibility, but also their power to become agents for change in support of sustainable and equitable development. WED is also a day for people from all walks of life to come together to ensure a cleaner, greener and brighter outlook for themselves and future generations.

Plastic Pollution, the theme for World Environment Day 2018, brought to the foreground the ever growing epidemic that is single-use plastic waste within the marine environment.

**BEAT
PLASTIC
POLLUTION**



**WORLD
ENVIRONMENT
DAY**



**INDIA
2018**

UN
environment

World Environment Day

5th June. Commonwealth Park.

09:00 - 15:30 hrs

#BeatPlasticPollution

Together we can make a difference

Join us on the 5th June and find out what you can do too!

In partnership with:

University of Gibraltar • Gibraltar Botanic Gardens •
Alameda Wildlife Conservation Park •
Environmental Safety Group •
Monkey Talks • MMICR •
Nautilus Project • Plug N' Go •
Ecotivity • Versatile •
Ecovibe •

**SCHOOL PERFORMANCES • LOCAL FLORA AND FAUNA •
RENEWABLE ENERGY • GROW YOUR OWN FOOD •
MARINE WILDLIFE • SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORT •
FREEBIES • REDUCE REUSE RECYCLE •**



Department of the Environment,
Heritage and Climate Change
HM Government of Gibraltar

Beat Plastic Pollution is a call for citizens to come together to consider how we can make changes in our everyday lives to reduce the heavy burden of plastic pollution on our natural environment, our wildlife and our own health. Around the world, 1 million plastic drinking bottles are purchased every minute and every year we use up to 5 trillion disposable plastic bags. In total, 50% of the plastic we use is single-use. Unfortunately, a lot of this plastic ends up in the sea; enough, in one year, to circle the Earth four times and persisting for up to 1,000 years before it fully disintegrates.

As part of the global drive to spread the message on cutting down on single-use plastics, a variety of schools performed at Commonwealth Park on Tuesday 5th June 2018. In addition, a number of activity-orientated stalls were also set up and run by DESCCH, Government Agencies, Non-governmental organisations and local businesses hoping to make a real difference.







UN Environment Clean Seas Campaign

Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change, Prof. John Cortes, signed up to the United Nations Environment Clean Seas Campaign during the World Environment Day celebrations in Gibraltar.

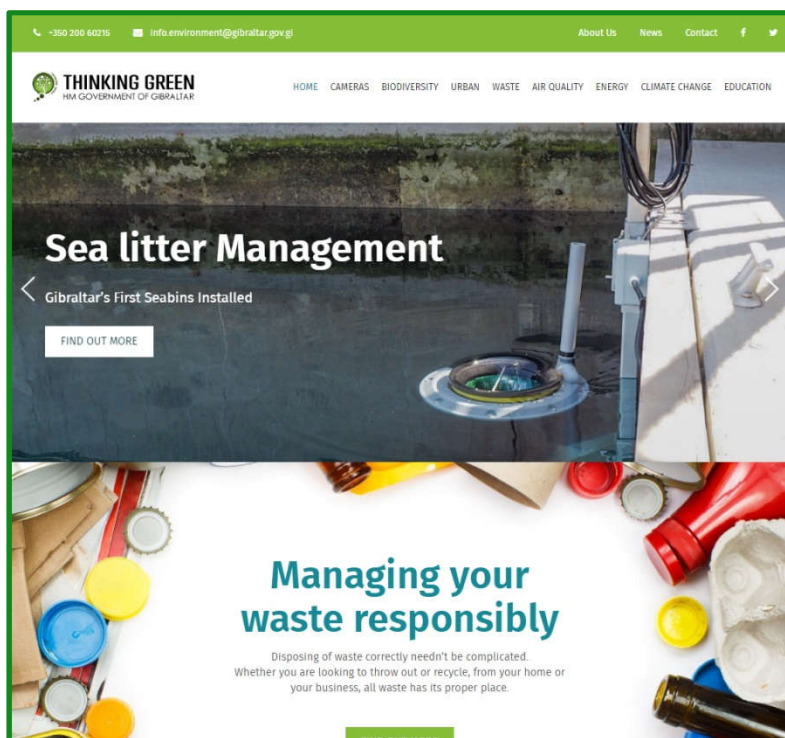
Gibraltar now becomes the 45th Government to join worldwide and contribute to the goals of the Global Partnership on Marine Litter, a voluntary open-ended partnership of international agencies, governments, businesses, academia, local authorities and non-governmental organizations hosted by UN Environment.

By signing the pledge, HM GoG is committed to pass new laws to reduce plastic pollution including the regulation and elimination of single-use plastic bags, plastic utensils and other single-use plastic materials.



Thinking Green Website

www.thinkinggreen.gov.gi



DESCCH has a mandate to achieve a high quality environment by providing effective environmental protection; addressing the threat of climate change; protecting and enhancing our natural environment; developing sustainable waste management practices; promoting energy efficiency and sustainable energy generation as well as ensuring that Gibraltar's

development respects the delicate balance between environment, economy and society.

Through the creation of this new and modern website, DESCCH aims to present relevant information on all aspects of our environment in a concise and efficient manner. The website has been designed to allow the public to navigate intuitively through it to procure the required information.

Please note that this website is made available for general information only. For official statistics and reports, please visit www.gibraltar.gov.gi/environment.



St. Bernard's First School Supports Environmental Waste Management

Year Three pupils from St Bernard's First School visited the Civic Amenities Site on our East Side in January. The children were embarking on a project to explore what happens to our waste in Gibraltar and how they can support environmental waste management in school and at home.

DESCCH hosted the event, providing a wealth of knowledge and expertise on the topic. The children were fascinated to see the different categories and methods of disposal and asked many relevant questions to support them in their project in school.

Head teacher Mrs. Sonia Lopez explained "These experiences are essential to help our children understand the importance of caring for our environment. Once they understand through practical experience, they are far more likely to take an active role in recycling, which will have a positive impact on Gibraltar's environment. This visit has highlighted the negative impact waste has on the natural environment and how harmful chemicals and greenhouse gases are released from rubbish in landfill sites.

The children have seen for themselves how recycling helps to reduce pollution caused by waste and preserve natural resources. St Bernard's First School is committed to recycling at school and hopes that the children will reinforce these habits at home."





The collection of Cooking Oil at the site allows for its recycling into Biodiesel.



Other schools who have visited the Civic Amenities site include Bishop Fitzgerald Middle School, St. Mary's First School and St. Bernard's First School.

University Staff Seminar

Staff from DESCCH spent an afternoon at the University of Gibraltar discussing the issues regarding consumerism as well as providing up to date information on the whole recycling process as it happens in Gibraltar.

Misconceptions, as well as information on what happens with recycle in other countries does not literally transfer to the local scene. Therefore, there was extensive discussion on the different recycle streams as they apply locally.



GHA Introduces 'Single-use Plastics Reduction' Policy

The Gibraltar Health Authority (GHA) introduced a policy for the gradual reduction of single use plastic items at St Bernard's Hospital and across other GHA departments.

The initiative followed from an exercise conducted by Matrons at St Bernard's Hospital over several months. They evaluated the quantity of plastic items, consumables, medicine pots, cups, eating utensils and crockery, used in the different wards and departments, with the aim of substituting such items with biodegradable materials over a period of time.

The introduction of the policy came as part of the wider Gibraltar Government led campaign for more environmentally friendly practices throughout the public service.

In addition to the plastic reduction initiative, recycling bins were also installed throughout the GHA sites.



CHAMP

Children, Healthy, Active! Multi-agency Programme, or CHAMP for short, is a programme aimed primarily at promoting and encouraging healthy children.



CHAMP was officially launched in Gibraltar in April 2018 to promote healthy living for Gibraltar's childhood population, and has enjoyed strong community and government support. CHAMP strives to be reliable partners of local families in their challenging task of managing a wide range and often confusing information on child health matters in the modern world, and to provide a platform for local agencies to work together towards a common goal of helping Gibraltar's children grow up to be healthy, happy and productive adults. CHAMP is relevant to who we are, where we are and what we want to be.



CHAMP: Getting Fit and Active!

DESCCH, in conjunction with the Gibraltar Health Authority, Public Health, Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority, Royal Gibraltar Police, Care Agency, AquaGib and Department of Education, held a *Morning of Fun and Games* at Commonwealth Park and an *Afternoon of Aquatic Play* at the Gibraltar Sports and Leisure Authority (GSLA) Accessible Pool towards the end of September 2018.

Through getting fit and active within our urban and natural environments, DESCCH encouraged an appreciation of our unique local environment and the importance of its preservation as well as enhancement.

All children and families were invited to attend the whole day to complete an Activity Passport of 10 fun physical tasks, including an educational treasure hunt. Pedometers were sponsored by Diabetes Gibraltar and reusable drinking bottles were kindly donated by AquaGib. These were presented as prizes to successful participants. Challenges included physical tasks on land in the park and in the water at the pool. Families with younger infants / toddlers were also welcome with a dedicated soft play area in the Park, as well as in the Pool in the afternoon.



Recycling Information

Please check the information on the following pages to ensure that all recyclable items are being disposed of correctly. DESCCH continues to monitor Gibraltar's recycling bins to find items being placed in the wrong bin or contaminated by the disposing of organic waste within these bins. The following pictures highlight the incorrect contents of the Green "Glass" Recycling Bins.



Plastic – All plastic items go in the Yellow bin.

Paper and Cardboard – Tissues not contaminated with organic matter goes in the Blue bin.

WEEE – Lightbulbs go in the Pink bin



Paper contaminated with organic matter goes in the normal bin

Plastic bottles go in the Yellow bin



Tissues contaminated with organic matter go in the normal bin

Plastic bottles and cans go in the Yellow bin

WHAT ITEMS CAN YOU DEPOSIT IN THE

GREEN RECYCLING BINS?

**ALL GLASS JARS
GLASS BOTTLES
WITHOUT THEIR
CAPS & LIDS**

Bottles of wine, spirits, etc.
Jars of food, jams, etc.
Perfume and cosmetic
glass bottles.



All types of glass containers and products that have reached the end of their useful life can be placed in any green recycling bin.

Should you be disposing of glass jars, remember that the lids (normally made of metal) should be taken off the jar or glass container and placed in the yellow recycling bin.

WHAT ITEMS CAN YOU DEPOSIT IN THE

PINK RECYCLING BINS?

ANYTHING ELECTRIC including:

Small household items:
clocks, coffee machines and
electric toothbrushes.
IT and telecommunications
equipment: all types of
phones, computers and
keyboards, etc.
Toys and leisure equipment:
video games, car racing sets, etc.

For a comprehensive list
please visit: thinkinggreen.gov.gi



All electronic and electrical equipment can be recycled in any pink recycling bin once the item is broken and cannot be repaired.

Anything which runs on electricity, obtained from a battery, solar/wind powered or from mains electricity, is classified as an electronic or electrical item.

This includes all types of cables, light bulbs and light fittings as a few examples.

WHAT ITEMS CAN YOU DEPOSIT IN THE

BLUE RECYCLING BINS?

**NEWSPAPER
MAGAZINES
CARDBOARD
EGG CARTONS
FOOD PACKAGING
BOXES**

REMEMBER: Fold empty
cartons & cardboard
boxes to make them
easier to transport and
place in bins.



Any item made from paper can be recycled in any blue recycling bin.

Please remember to flat pack boxes which are intended for the recycling bin in order to maximise space in the bins for other items.

Discarded envelopes with plastic windows can also be placed in the blue recycling bin.

WHAT ITEMS CAN YOU DEPOSIT IN THE

RED RECYCLING BINS?

ALL TYPES OF BATTERIES including:

AAA, AA, C, D, 4,5 volt,
9 volt and Lantern (Spring).
Smaller batteries from watches,
etc, are also recyclable.

NB: Car and other vehicle
batteries should be taken
to the Recycling Centre
at Europa Advance Road.



All batteries should be recycled as these pose a toxic threat to our natural environment.

All household batteries, whether single use or rechargeable, can be deposited in a red recycling bin. These recycling bins are small and therefore can be found attached to one of the other larger recycling bins available.

WHAT ITEMS CAN YOU DEPOSIT IN THE

YELLOW RECYCLING BINS?

PLASTIC

Bottles of water, soft drinks, etc.
Cleaning product containers.
Bath/shower gel bottles, yogurt
containers, plastic shopping
bags, plastic wrappers (from
biscuits, etc). Packets of crisps,
sweets, etc.

TETRA BRIK

Tetra Brik packaging from
juices, milk, wine, etc.

CANS/METALS

All types of food tins and
cans (tomato, tuna, peas,
etc). Soft drink cans.
Metal bottle caps. Clean
aluminium foil and foil trays.



Anything made from plastic, including plastic wrappings and polystyrene packaging which might state that it is not recyclable, can be recycled in any local yellow recycling bin.

All tetra Brik packaging, although appearing to be solely made from cardboard, has an internal plastic/metallic coating, which is why it is collected for recycling with other plastic products.



Department of the Environment, Heritage and Climate Change

HM Government of Gibraltar

Civic Amenities Site

Opening Hours*:

- **8am—8pm** Monday to Friday
- **9am—5pm** Saturday and Sunday

* Except on Christmas Day, New Years Day and National Day

All types of **HOUSEHOLD** waste highlighted below are accepted at the site:



Bulky items & furniture



Waste electrical & electronic equipment
WEEE



Paints



Scrap metal



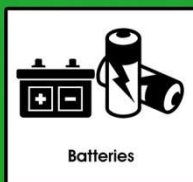
Glass items



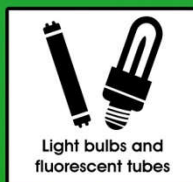
Items made of plastic



Ink and toner cartridges



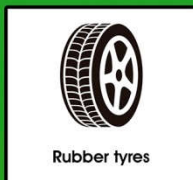
Batteries



Light bulbs and fluorescent tubes



Household rubble



Rubber tyres



Cooking Oil

Should you require any further information please contact:

Department of the Environment Heritage and Climate Change (DEHCC)

Email: info.environment@gibraltar.gov.gi Phone: (+350) 20065964

Gibraltar General Support Services (GGSS) Ltd Yard:

Phone: (+350) 20047015

