

# A VISION FOR AN ECO-ISLAND



**EcoGozo –  
Have your  
say, again...**

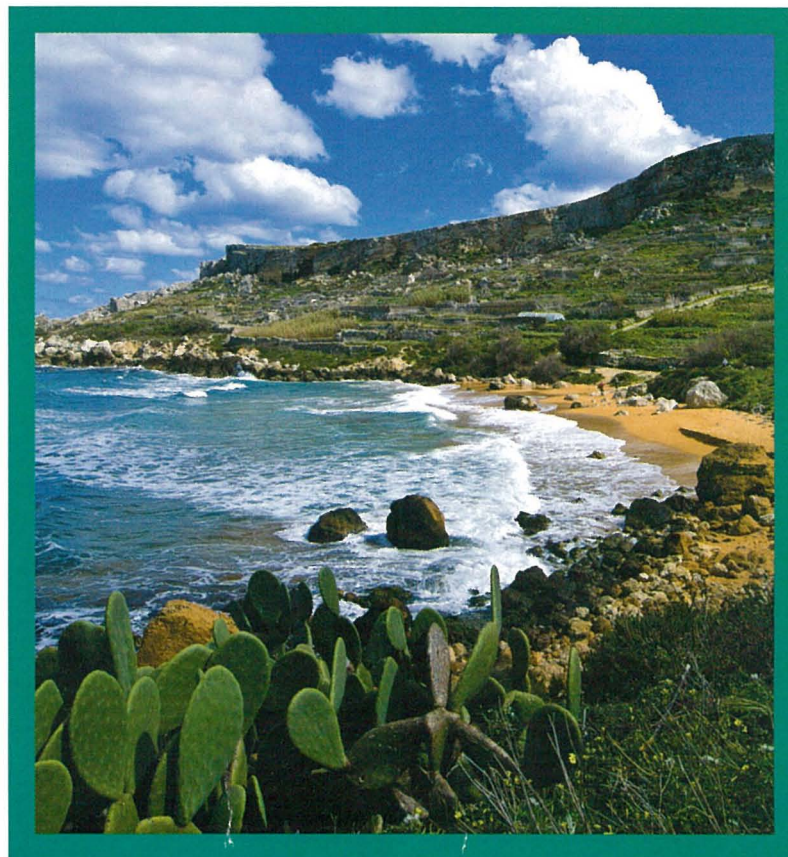
THE HON.  
GIOVANNA  
DEBONO,  
MINISTER  
FOR GOZO

to trigger a community project with a long-term vision and a commitment from the grassroots. Policy setting and academic input are two central contributors in implementing a strategy to achieve higher levels of sustainability. Yet, in addition to these, grassroots endorsement and participation is a fundamental requirement. There is simply no manner in which a community can become more sustainable if the persons forming it are not committed and involved in this ideal. In the past years we have actively sought to engage everyone in the implementation of this vision – and the response we've had was impressive.

In 2008, we set off with an extensive public consultation process which generated a staggering level of participation from the public. The feedback obtained through this consultation, which lasted nearly a whole year, was studied and organised, forming the basis on which a long-term vision for a sustainable Gozo was drawn up. Around 80 of the proposals made by the public were taken up by Government to form the first ecoGozo Action Plan for 2010-2012. I invite you to read through this supplement to get to know more on the progress registered on the ecoGozo project through a collaboration with more than 60 organisations. At the threshold of the drafting of a

Four years ago, we embarked upon a very promising adventure with the launch of the ecoGozo project. Many saw this as a unique opportunity for the island of Gozo and its enduring prosperity and have taken an active role in its shaping and implementation.

EcoGozo is a people's vision and a people's project. In launching ecoGozo, the Government has given a name, perhaps developed a brand, to a vision which the people of Gozo themselves have communicated to the Government over the years. EcoGozo is a vision the people of Gozo have for the transformation of their island into a sustainable reality.



The Government launched action on ecoGozo in 2008, stating clearly that through this Sustainable Development strategy, it intended

second ecoGozo Action Plan for the years 2013-2015, the full result of the public consultation process is being published. This will help in the

**EcoGozo is a people's vision  
and a people's project.**

identification of the new initiatives which are to be implemented during the coming three years. This document is available on the ecoGozo website at [www.ecogozo.com](http://www.ecogozo.com)

Through this publication, I am honoured to renew an invitation to all those who cherish the island of Gozo to participate again in shaping the future of this island. As we venture into the next phase of the ecoGozo implementation spanning the years 2013-2015, we wish once again to create the opportunity for everyone to participate in this process. You will find the details on how to contact us with your ideas in this publication.

The Eco-Gozo venture presents us with a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to enhance our charming island and lead it towards a sustainable future, resulting in success and a better quality of life for all those who come in touch with Gozo.

I look forward to receiving your thoughts on the future of our island.



Ministry for Gozo



Our Partners:





# OVERVIEW

“EcoGozo is not merely ‘thinking green’, but a vision to achieve a stable and healthy environment for a better quality of life.”

**E**coGozo is a Local Sustainable Development strategy for the island of Gozo. Through a holistic approach, this strategy seeks to achieve an enduring environmental improvement while, fostering economic development and social progress on the island. Following an extensive public consultation held in 2009, the Ministry for Gozo, together with a large number of stakeholders on the island, took off with the ecoGozo implementation programme. To date, this project involves more than 60 stakeholder organisations. Action on ecoGozo is distributed under four main pillars; the Economy, Environment, Society, and Culture & Identity.

The ecoGozo Action Plan 2010-2012 has guided the Ministry for Gozo's work on the eco-island vision in the past three years. To date, out of the 82 recommendations listed in this Action Plan, 61 have either been completed

or are in different stages of completion. Work on the implementation of these 61 measures is estimated to have involved 180 projects or initiatives, involving the Ministry for Gozo, other Government Ministries and organisations, the voluntary sector and the private sector. It is estimated that more than 60 different organisations have been involved in the implementation of these projects.

In addition to the recommendations adopted in the first Action Plan, another 77 recommendations received in the original public consultation on ecoGozo have been completed while another 76 are being implemented. Thus, from the total set of recommendations made by the public in the ecoGozo consultation process in 2009, 96 recommendations have been completed, and 118 recommendations are currently being implemented.

EcoGozo is not just a project which the Government is implementing in isolation from the community. Various initiatives have been taken to involve both the individual and the many organisations operating in Gozo. Through specific ecoGozo schemes aimed at Local Councils and NGOs, the Government has financed around 60 projects which have

contributed towards the achievement of the ecoGozo objectives. The total budget allocated for these schemes amounted to €2.5 million, spread over 13 projects by Local Councils and Administrative Committees and 36 by NGOs. Indeed, through these projects, civil society in Gozo is showing that it understands well what the term sustainable development stands for – yes, definitely improving the environment, but also fostering a society and economy which can then support and sustain this environmental progress. These projects have also contributed towards the Gozitan economy with a significant input of 66,000 working hours, which translates into 32 full-time jobs for a period of one year. The collaboration with international organisations, amongst which the Coca-Cola Foundation (represented by their local bottling agents The General Soft Drinks Co. Ltd) and HSBC International, as well as local institutions, namely the University of Malta, has also contributed to adding value to this vision ...our vision!

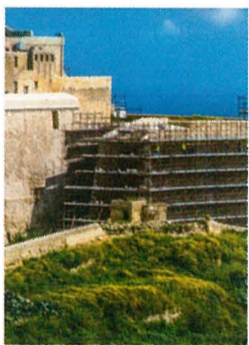
The following assessment of the four main pillars of sustainability will provide the reader with a clearer picture of the results achieved on ecoGozo so far - a project which is involving all the community with the aim of ensuring a sustainable future for our island.

# CULTURE & IDENTITY

Gozo boasts a strong cultural identity and heritage which need to be safeguarded. Moreover, in the context of sustainable development, they need to be made to play a significant role in developing the island's potential further and in attracting quality tourism.



Chapel included the installation of a wooden floor, installation of an energy efficient lighting system and work on the chapel's outer side. Another project involved the restoration and conservation of the oldest two parish registers of St George's Basilica [Victoria] which date back to the early seventeenth century and which shed a unique light on the sociological development of Gozo during its repopulation.



An extensive restoration project on the Cittadella fortifications is currently underway, through EU (ERDF) funding. The value of this project stands at €7million.

## CONSERVING GOZO'S HISTORY AND IDENTITY

Gozo possesses a rich and unique cultural heritage. The ecoGozo Action Plan 2010-2012 aimed to preserve and rehabilitate some of the most important historical and cultural assets which the island possesses. The Cittadella fortification is one of the most important and distinctive landmarks in Gozo. In these last years, the proposal by the Ministry for Gozo of a Master Plan for the Cittadella and the creation of a Visitors' Centre has been approved by MEPA, and works on this project are set to start after substantial EU funding was secured. The actions of this Master Plan range from the restoration of key buildings and public spaces, the installation of new services, the creation of visitor interpretation facilities and amenities related to accessibility and lighting amongst others. In the meantime, an extensive restoration project on the Cittadella

fortifications is currently underway, through EU (ERDF) funding. The value of this project stands at €7million.

The ecoGozo Action Plan 2010-2012 has also dedicated efforts towards the conservation of artefacts and unique heritage pieces, and has supported the creation of new exhibition venues and museums to increase the accessibility of our heritage to the public. New museums such as the Folklore Museum [Qala], Ecclesia Mater [Gharb] and Il-Haġar - The Making of a People [Victoria] all benefitted from the ecoGozo scheme for NGOs. These museums, while exhibiting the locality's history, will also serve as an added value to the cultural tourism offer in Gozo.

The Santa Cecilia Chapel [Ghajnsielem] and the Cittadella Silos [Victoria] were also restored through ecoGozo funding. Works on Santa Cecilia

The development of new heritage trails, such as those leading ramblers around the countryside of Santa Luċija and the cliff sides of Xlendi, proved to be an important tool especially for tourists, to further promote the uniqueness and distinctiveness of these rural areas.

## EMBELLISHING GOZO'S PUBLIC PLACES

In order to enhance the charm of the island, the Ministry has also worked towards increasing the presence of art in public spaces around Gozo – both as an educational tool and as a new attraction. Following a public call, 13 artworks by local artists have been commissioned to embellish public spaces. These works are currently being installed in various areas, among which Marsalforn (Three Hills Garden), Victoria (Villa Rundle) and Mġarr Harbour.



Institute for Sustainable Energy University of Malta



Hands on Farming



Fontana Local Council



Gharb Local Council



Ghajnsielem Local Council



Kerċem Local Council



Marsalforn Administrative Committee

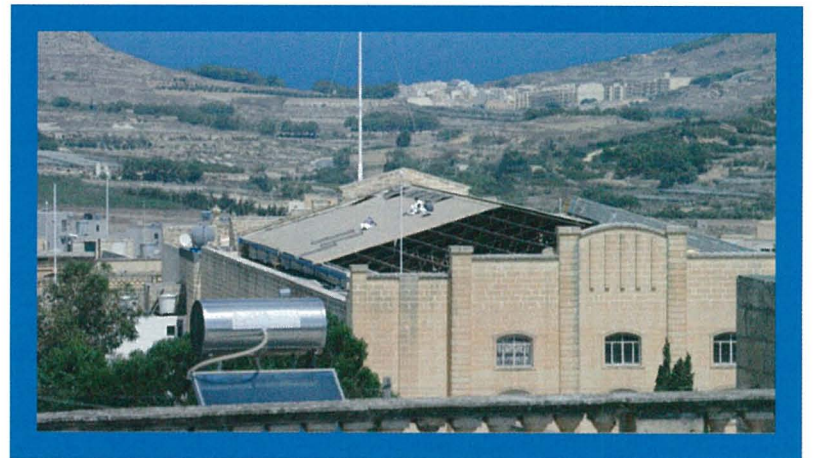
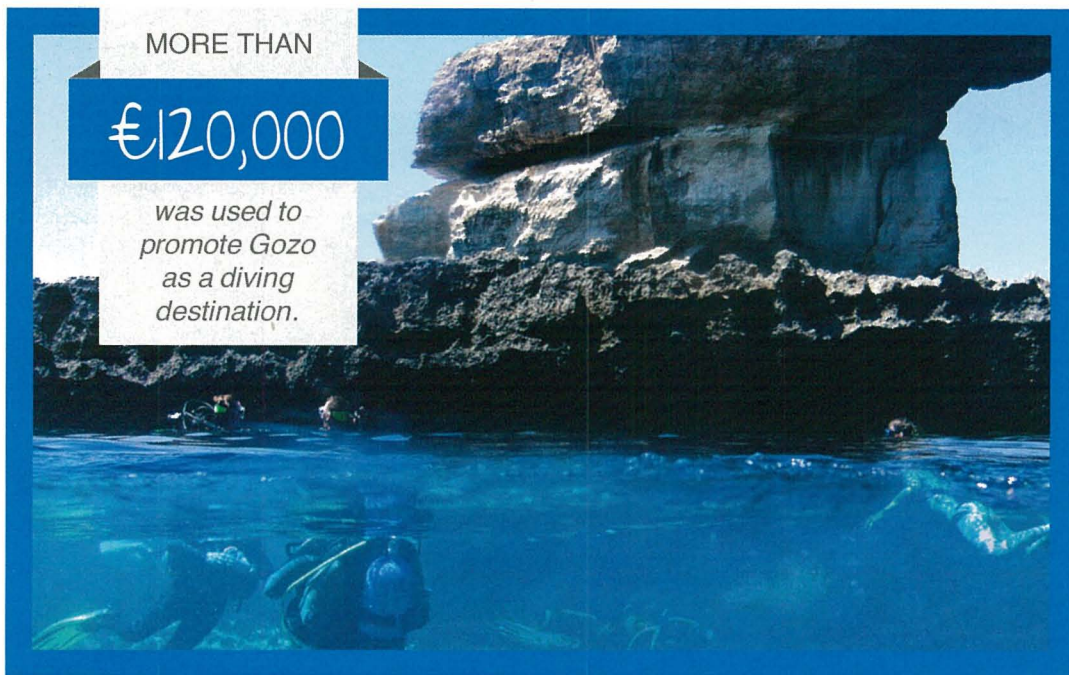


Munxar Local Council



# ECONOMY

Economic sustainability is fundamental for both the continued development of the island and the safeguarding of its environmental and social assets.



**“Providing and supporting projects offering a better tourism product is essential for the island’s economic prosperity.”**

## INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION IN ICT, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

EcoGozo funding has facilitated the launch of an online portal which serves as an electronic forum to encourage, attract and facilitate international collaboration in Information Communication Technology (ICT) and Research and Development, with an emphasis on internet security. This initiative was spearheaded by the Gozo Business Chamber, which developed this project to coordinate and integrate initiatives related to the Information Technology sector in Gozo. More specifically, this online portal has the potential to form clusters of excellence with direct and indirect economic benefits, as well as the creation of more jobs.

Many of the ecoGozo actions, particularly those which are helping to improve the physical characteristics of the island, provide a positive impact also on the island’s tourism. Apart from this indirect contribution to the tourism sector, the ecoGozo Action Plan 2010-2012 also contemplated direct actions for the benefit of the tourism sector on the island. One of these measures involved the investment of more than €120,000 for the promotion of Gozo as a unique diving destination, with, amongst others, publicity supplements being distributed with high-end diving publications in France and Germany. Diving is a model of how Gozo’s environment may be an important contributor to the island’s economy, and this model is being explored in other niches. The Ministry for Gozo has also recently partnered with the UK Travel Foundation on a marketing campaign ‘Make Holidays Greener month’ to further promote Gozo as a greener and sustainable destination. Gozo was also promoted through the Foundation’s portal [www.makeholidaysgreener.org.uk](http://www.makeholidaysgreener.org.uk). The achievement of the Quality Coast Gold Award for Gozo and the establishing of Ramla as the first Blue Flag beach in Gozo ensure a stronger promotion of the high quality coasts found in Gozo. These awards are an additional marketing boost for Gozo and Comino as a sustainable and quality tourism destination.

## A HUMAN RESOURCES STRATEGY FOR GOZO

The Ministry for Gozo is currently developing a human resources strategy, which shall present an analysis of the human resource capabilities, potentials and needs of the Island of Gozo with recommendations and measures to create jobs at various skill levels over a number of years. The strategy aims to reduce unemployment, mobilise inactive persons, as well as retain and attract workers with high qualifications back to Gozo. International case studies of best practice regarding human resource development in regions with similarities to Gozo have been studied. The measures being drawn up shall be backed by a plan for implementation, sequencing and evaluation through performance targets and indicators.

## SUPPORTING GOZO’S DISTINCTIVE QUALITIES AND ENHANCING TOURISM

Tourism is one of the strongest sectors in the economy of Gozo. Providing and supporting projects offering a better tourism product is essential for the island’s economic prosperity.

In this regard a number of projects have been implemented, including the improvement of interpretation facilities in heritage buildings in Gozo and Comino by Din I-Art Helwa, the publication of a book by the Gozo Philatelic Society called Gozo in Philately, as well as the provision of equipment for the residence of Karmni Grima, limits of Għarb, which will soon be re-opened as a museum by the administration of the Ta’ Pinu Sanctuary. A strong campaign promoting Gozo as a cruise liner destination has also been launched by the Tourism and Economic Development Directorate.



*Gozo was this year awarded a Gold Medal in the Quality Coast Award*

Through the ecoGozo Action Plan, support has been provided to the organisation of both new and long-standing festivals, such as the International Folk Festival [Qala], which showcases Gozo’s traditional customs and folklore. Assistance was also provided to high-quality festivals, such as Operas in Gozo, to improve their amenities and publicise their productions internationally, aiming to attract foreign visitors during the shoulder months. These projects included renovation works of the theatre facilities at the Astra Theatre, and the international marketing of the festival it produces annually, the replacement of an asbestos roof at the Aurora Theatre and the marketing of Gozo as a high-level destination for Baroque music through a high-quality Arts festival.

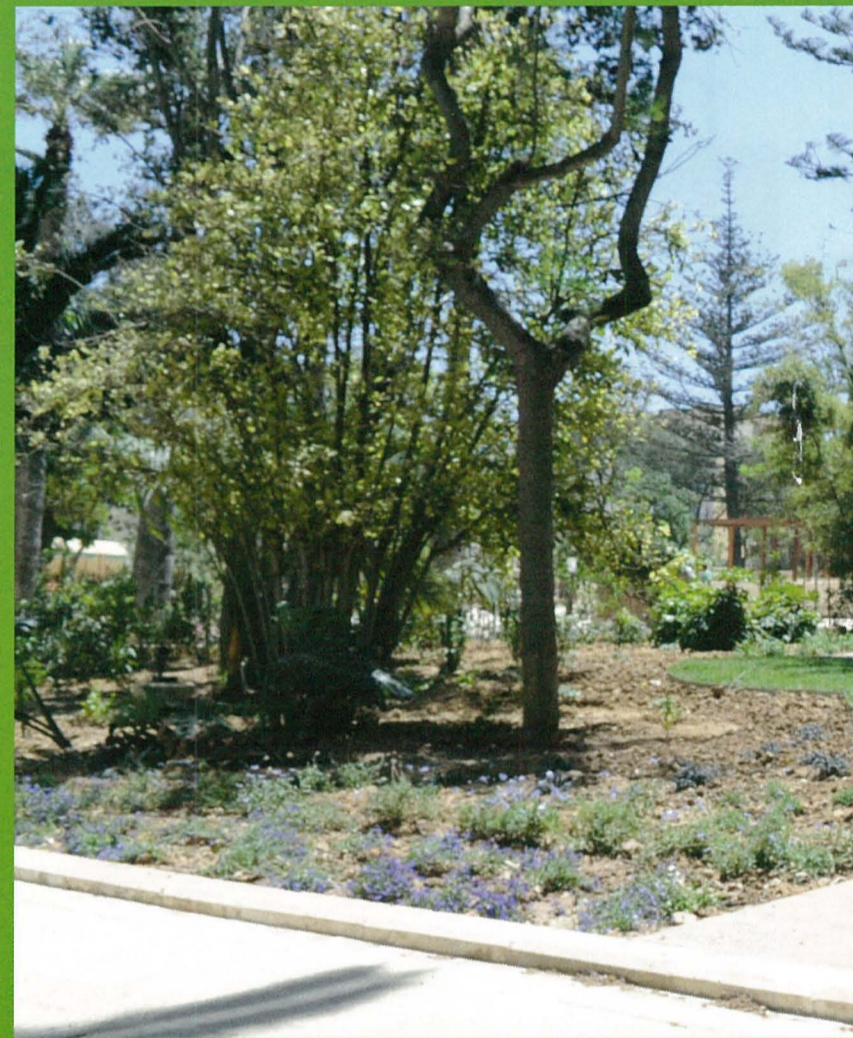
## PROMOTING GOZO INTERNATIONALLY





# ENVIRONMENT

Gozo's environment is unique and worthy of protection. It also provides unique opportunities for the economic development of the island.



## RESTORING, EMBELLISHING AND CREATING NEW PUBLIC SPACES IN GOZO

Gozo is renowned for its greenery. It has always been the Ministry's aim to increase green recreational areas and improve the existing ones. Over the past years, various works to this effect were accomplished, offering families more public places to enjoy. The extensive upgrading of Villa Rundle Gardens [Victoria], the creation of the Three Hills Garden [Marsalforn], the afforestation project at Mgarr Harbour Grove [Ghajnsielem], the embellishment of Id-Dahlia taç-Ċnus area [Sannat] have resulted in offering both locals and visitors open spaces which can now be enjoyed by all. In 2010 and 2011 over 27,000 trees and shrubs were planted in Gozo. In addition, more than 191,000 decorative plants were planted in

public spaces. These works were the result of a total investment of €2.74 million over 3 years. In the coming weeks, renovation works on more green areas will also commence at the Victoria Playing Field and at ta' Blankas Olive Grove [Xewkija].

The restoration of rubble walls, which form an essential part of Gozo's picturesque landscape, also featured in the ecoGozo Action Plan. Although, admittedly, work on rubble walls is never enough, given the huge network of walls all around the island, around 5km of rubble walls have been restored through ecoGozo funding. This funding was provided through specific schemes and with the initiative of Local Councils and Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). The Ministry for Gozo also continued with its programme of rubble wall restoration through direct labour.

approximately 50% of the Ministry's consumption. Moreover, all state schools in Gozo are planned to have a photovoltaic system installed to cover the electricity consumed by each respective school. The Ministry for Gozo, with the help of the Institute for Sustainable Energy at the University of Malta, is also considering other forms of renewable energy and has also issued tenders for the commissioning of a wind-monitoring mast. In line with the ecoGozo vision, Gozitan households generating electricity through photovoltaic systems benefit from an advantageous feed-in tariff rate of 28c per unit, which is 12% higher than that offered in Malta. These measures have resulted in over 500 installations having a total capacity of nearly 1.5MWp, which is equal to 3% of the electricity consumed in Gozo.

Apart from renewable energy generation, the Ministry for Gozo has also tackled energy efficiency. In collaboration with Local Councils and NGOs, 11 projects varying from the installation of LED floodlighting, the introduction of energy efficient decorative street lighting and conversion of lighting systems to energy saving bulbs have been implemented. Energy audits were carried out on all the administrative government buildings in Gozo. These were helpful in determining which energy efficient measures to implement, which to date include the introduction of a power factor corrector at the Administration Centre, energy efficient lighting and inverter type air-conditioning units.

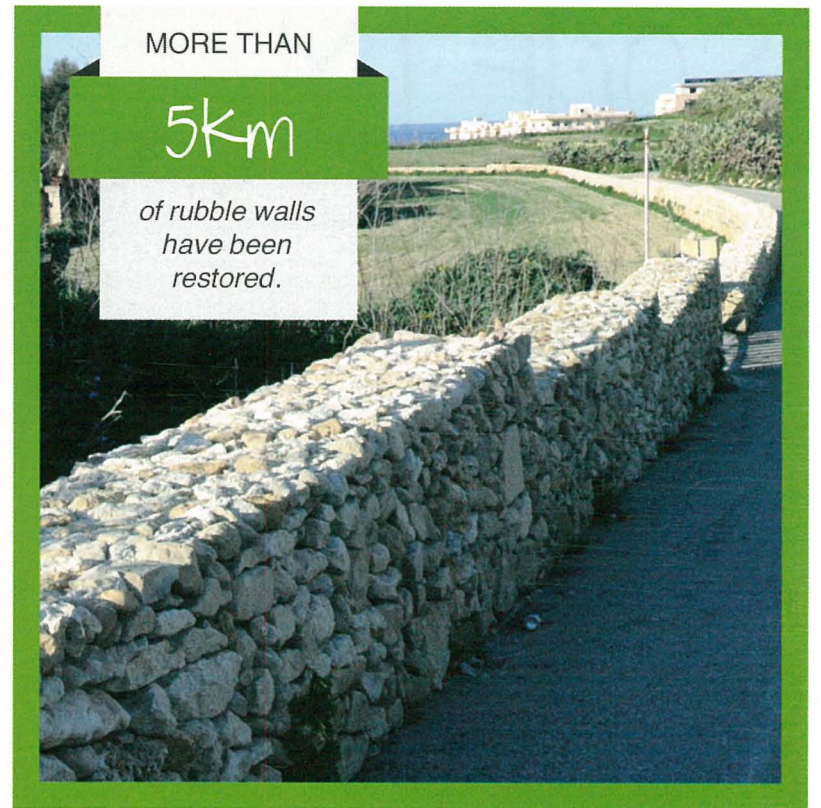
The Government's vision also aims at improving air quality to ensure a better quality of life. To this effect, a new public transport system which produces lower emissions was introduced. It is



## GENERATION OF ENERGY FROM RENEWABLE RESOURCES AND USE OF GREEN TECHNOLOGY

In the Maltese Islands, a large proportion of the electricity required is produced by the burning of fossil fuel, with known adverse effects on health and the environment. The ecoGozo Action Plan has aimed to increase the percentage of renewable resources in Gozo. Various measures have been implemented in this respect, especially in the public sector, so as to set an example to the general public. During 2011, the photovoltaic system at the Ministry for Gozo was extended into a 50kWp installation, making it the largest installation owned by Government. By the end of this year, the system will be further extended into a 90kWp system, which will then cover





**“Over 27,000 trees and shrubs and more than 191,000 decorative plants were planted in public spaces.”**

hoped that with the new service, the modal shift towards public transport will rise in the coming years. The Ministry for Gozo has also included an electric car in its own fleet to help reduce CO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>2</sub> emissions. The Ministry is also taking part in ‘Demo EV’; a LIFE+ project, through which a number of car charging points shall be installed throughout Malta and Gozo. In addition, Gozitans can participate in the project by volunteering to make use of an electric vehicle for a trial period of 3 months.

**INCREASING GOZO'S RAINWATER HARVESTING POTENTIAL**

Freshwater availability is perhaps Gozo's foremost environmental problem. The availability of fresh water on the islands is becoming scarcer. EcoGozo has focused on mitigating this problem by increasing freshwater supply for common use and by reducing wastage. This has seen initiatives ranging from the cleaning of rainwater retention areas in valleys, the building

of reservoirs and an educational campaign to reduce water consumption.

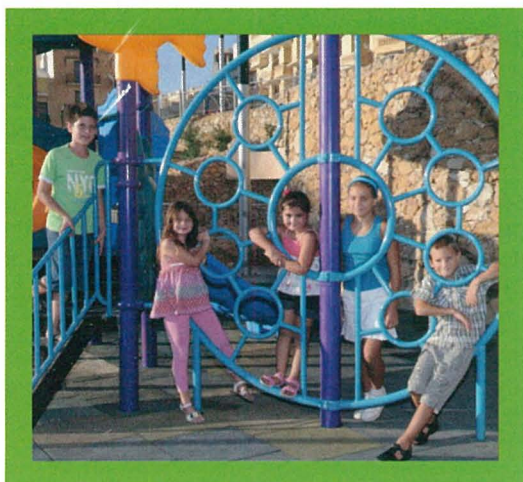
Over the past years, the cleaning of *Wied tal-Ghasri, Wied ta' Marsalforn, Wied tal-Kapuċċini, Wied tar-Ramla and Wied ta' Żejta* from debris and other accumulated material has resulted in an increased rainwater harvesting capacity of over 43 million litres. This initiative has proven to be highly beneficial: farmers are being provided with freshwater close to their fields and, as a result, less pressure is being exerted on the water table.

EcoGozo has also supported Gozitan Local Councils and NGOs in the cleaning of other valleys and in the building and restoration of 8 reservoirs to increase rainwater harvesting.

The Ministry has also encouraged the sustainable use of water through a campaign which consisted of the distribution of 12,000 water saving kits to Gozitan households, with an expected result of a reduction of up to 50% of the water usage.

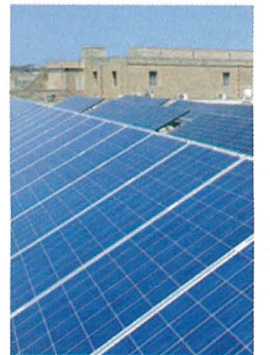
**CLEANER WATER FOR EVERYONE TO ENJOY**

Gozo is renowned for its unique and picturesque beaches and as a top diving destination. Through collaboration with MEPA, Dwejra and Mġarr ix-Xini were established as new Marine Protected Areas. Following this, an underwater clean-up campaign, conducted with the assistance of a local NGO, resulted in the removal of huge volumes of waste from the seabed, including tyres, glass and plastic material.



**INNOVATION IN AGRICULTURE**

Sustaining the agricultural sector is of vital importance for the preservation of the rural character of Gozo's countryside. The creation – in collaboration with the University of Malta - of a Centre for Innovation in Rural Sciences and Environmental Management in Xewkija, with a total investment of more than €1,200,000, aims to host and promote environmentally-friendly practices in the agricultural sector, and the introduction of new systems in agriculture. Research work at this centre has already taken off, with projects on the Maltese Black Hen, analysis of local varieties of fodder and summer fruit, the creation of a Figs genetic reserve and research related to the use of water in agriculture. Over the past years, farmers were also provided with frequent educational and information campaigns on the safe use of pesticides and their possible adverse effects on soil and the water table. Moreover, 27 wind-powered water pumps were restored through a scheme for the restoration of these same pumps.



*708 Gozitan households benefited from Government grants to install PV systems, equivalent to 3.1% of the energy consumed.*

**SAVE AND REDUCE - THE ECOGOZO HOME CONSULTANCY VISITS.**

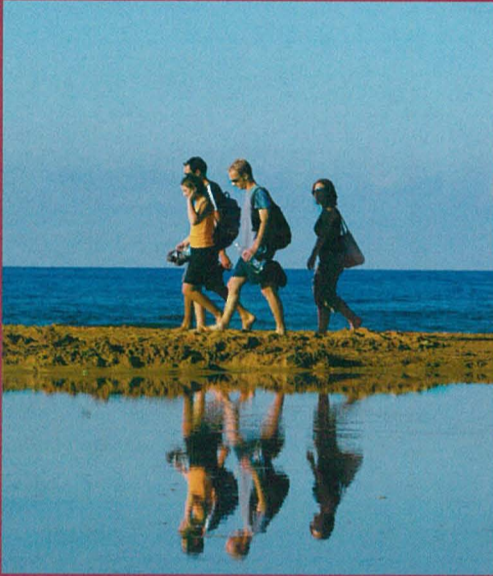
This ongoing project, with the collaboration of the Institute for Sustainable Energy at the University of Malta, aims to provide information to all Gozitan residents on how to reduce the carbon and water footprints of their household and to encourage appropriate waste management practices. Trained personnel are visiting families to provide a unique opportunity of one-to-one advice provided in an informal atmosphere at home. Till now, more than 5,000 families in Gozo have been visited by eco Trainers, with the rest of the families expected to be visited by the end of the year.





# SOCIETY

Sustainable Development can hardly be defined as sustainable if it does not result in a tangible and long-lasting improvement in quality of life.



and a good number of Gozitan schools have been the recipients of the Green Flag – the symbol of excellence for the EcoSchools programme.

The ecoGoGo programme has also contributed substantially towards the development of the Hands on Farming Programme which is housed at the Government Farm in Xewkija – the site where a new Research Centre on Agriculture and the Environment is being developed. The Hands on Farming experience offers children of all ages a hands-on experience in agricultural and environmental activities.

In order to assist teachers in conveying the ecoGoGo message in schools, a resource pack with Educational material for use in the classroom was also developed. This pack, full of handy, colourful and easy-to-use resources assists teachers in communicating topics related to sustainability to their students.

**“Kikku, the voice of children for ecoGoGo, has given life to children’s thoughts and ideas .”**

## A HEALTHIER SOCIETY

It is widely accepted that a healthy diet combined with adequate physical activity goes a long way in avoiding many of the health problems common among the Maltese population. Through the eco-island project, students in state schools were provided with the opportunity to participate in an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities focusing on sports, physical activity and healthy living. These activities included trekking events, swimming sessions, cycling, treasure hunts and nature trips to Comino. Students also attended informative and hands-on sessions forming part of the Healthy Eating Campaign coordinated by the Institute of Tourism Studies - Gozo.

Through the implementation of the Action Plan 2010-2012, the public had the opportunity to attend a conference that aimed at promoting healthy practices in relation to the preparation and choice of healthy food. The publication of the booklet *Defeating Obesity Through Sports*, published and distributed by the Gozo Football Association, also formed part of the social sustainability initiatives related to the ecoGoGo Action Plan 2010-2012 and promotes a healthy lifestyle through sporting. At an institutional level, the ecoGoGo programme provided the necessary support for the development of the Health Promotion competence in Gozo and for the extension of the services of a Nutritionist at the Gozo General Hospital outpatient services.

## FOSTERING YOUTH, CHILDREN AND VULNERABLE GROUPS

Children are at the core of the ecoGoGo strategy. They have occupied a very active role throughout this experience – and have shown a remarkable level of initiative. The ecoGoGo programme is intent on providing all the necessary support for children to contribute to the eco-island objectives even from a very young age, and to create the best environment to foster their development. The Cabinet of Ministers has recently approved the launch of a project for the establishment of a Child Development Centre [Victoria] in Gozo. This project will house a regional child development centre and will create the space required to cluster all child development services in Gozo in one building. Furthermore, a new childcare centre launched recently at Gharb by the Local Council, was developed through the ecoGoGo scheme for Local Councils. The Ministry has also introduced the Homestart project in Gozo, which intends to aid vulnerable families experiencing social problems.

Other specific activities include the launch of the Gozo Mental Health Association, ongoing work for the setting up of the Gozo Regional Youth Council, the commissioning of a study on Young People in Gozo coordinated by the OASI Foundation and collaboration with the Gozo NGOs Association.

## INTRODUCING EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN SCHOOLS

Increased awareness about sustainable development at primary and secondary levels has facilitated the achievement of the ecoGoGo objectives. Kikku, the ecoGoGo mascot, was introduced and was employed extensively in the involvement of children and in communicating the ecoGoGo values to them. Kikku, the voice of children for ecoGoGo, has given life to children’s thoughts and ideas on how to make Gozo a better place to live in.

Kikku’s diary – a means to raise awareness on Gozo and sustainability - was launched on World Book Day 2012. In his diary, Kikku narrates his efforts to live a sustainable lifestyle while sharing tips of present and past sustainable Gozitan practices. Furthermore, a music video ‘Ma’ Kikku ghal ekoGħawdex’ conveying children’s message on ecoGoGo, was launched in May 2012. Children have also been encouraged to participate in the recycling of waste paper while at school, through the distribution of cardboard wastepaper bins in all Gozitan primary classrooms and in many public spaces on the island. The ecoGoGo programme is also actively involved in the EcoSchools programme in Gozo which is coordinated by Nature Trust Malta. It is heartening to note that, to date, around 90% of Gozitan schools participate in this programme



*Tenders for the building of a Regional Child Care Development Centre have been issued*





## PARTICIPATION IN EU PROJECTS BY THE MINISTRY FOR GOZO:

The EcoGozo Regional Development Directorate is also participating in four EU Territorial Cooperation projects for the period 2007-2013, as a means to increase the funding available for the implementation of the ecoGozo objectives. These projects are carried out along with other partners from around Europe and the Mediterranean region to identify policies and best practices which may be applicable to Gozo.

The ICER (Innovative Concept of Eco-Accommodation Approach in Rural Regions) project, funded under the Interreg IV C Programme, aids regional authorities across Europe, including the island of Gozo, to develop policies which promote the further development of the eco-accommodation sector and the appeal of rural territories for tourism purposes.

The Agrisles (Agriculture and Innovation in Mediterranean islands) project aims to create a new network of cooperation between the Mediterranean islands in relation to innovation in agriculture, as well as to promote the sharing of resources in order to enable the islands in overcoming common challenges within their agricultural sectors. This project is funded within the MED Programme.

SWMed (Sustainable domestic Water Use in Mediterranean Regions) is a project being implemented as part of the ENPI CBC MED Programme. This project aims at promoting policies aimed at satisfying water and sanitation needs of the population in each participating country, while reducing water abstraction and improving the quality of water bodies receiving wastewater. Part of this project will be the distribution of water saving kits to promote further sustainable use of water.

The Ministry for Gozo is also participating in the Simbiotic (Sicily-Malta BIOgeographical Transboundary Insular Connectivity) project under the Italy-Malta Crossborder Programme. This is an environmental restoration project aiming at enhancing the ecological connectivity of the Southeast Sicily - Gozo transboundary migratory route through ecological restoration, improved area management, integrated environmental planning and policy, and enhanced local environmental consciousness.

## CREATION OF FAMILY PARKS AT ULYSSES GROVE [XEWKIJA], QORTIN TA' ISOPU [NADUR] AND QORTIN TA' GHAJN DAMMA [XAGHRA]



# INTERNATIONAL INVESTMENT FOR ECOGOZO

WATER STEWARDSHIP PROJECT FUNDED BY THE COCA-COLA FOUNDATION



The Coca-Cola Company, through its international philanthropic branch 'The Coca-Cola Foundation', has awarded the Ministry for Gozo with a grant of \$800,000 for the implementation of a Water Stewardship Project in Gozo. This project will result in the installation and rehabilitation of a number of rainwater harvesting systems and non-conventional water systems in various public spaces, amongst which schools. This initiative has the objective of collecting and re-using around 5 million litres of rainwater each year. Another part of the project includes capacity-building workshops for the introduction of new water harvesting technologies and an educational campaign on water among school children. The partners collaborating on this project include the General Soft Drinks Co. Ltd (the Coca-Cola local representatives), Global Water Partnership – Mediterranean, Nature Trust Malta and the Ministry for Gozo



the natural landscape of this picturesque area. Additional works planned for this area include the construction of reservoirs, rubble walls, passage ways and viewing areas in the already-established section of this Grove, and its opening to the public.

AFFORESTATION PROJECT FUNDED BY THE HSBC FOUNDATION

The Ministry for Gozo has partnered with the HSBC Malta Foundation to carry out an afforestation project on the slopes underlying Fort Chambrai [Mgarr]. This partnership, which involves a donation of €100,000 by the HSBC Foundation as partial funding for the project, has involved the planting of around 2,300 new trees and shrubs over an area of 11,000 square metres. Apart from the aesthetic benefits, this grove will also help to prevent soil erosion and to preserve

## UPCOMING PROJECTS

### CONSTRUCTION OF A CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE



### LAUNCHING OF A RURAL TOURISM STRATEGY



### LAUNCHING OF THE PORTAL VISITGOZO.COM



### CLEANING OF MORE DAMS IN VALLEYS



### DISTRIBUTION OF A NEW WATER SAVING KIT



# HAVE YOUR SAY AGAIN



It is time for us to plan our action for the coming 3 years and we want to hear your views again. EcoGozo is everybody's project, where everyone has a role and where everyone is set to gain.

## 1 WE ARE GETTING BACK TO YOU

for the second time to hear your thoughts, ideas and proposals on what we should be working on in the next three years. Back in 2008, we launched the ecoGozo project with a successful public consultation which helped us shape the ecoGozo Action Plan for 2010-2012. Your feedback was huge\* and we now need your views again on what you consider to be Gozo's top priorities.

## 2 GET IN TOUCH WITH US

through our website, email address or Facebook page. We will also be sending a postage-paid card to every household in Gozo to make it easier for you to get in touch with us. We VALUE greatly what CHILDREN have to say. So if there are children in your family, do encourage them to give us their feedback too through the Kids' page on our website.

## 3 ECOGOZO IS THE WAY FORWARD FOR GOZO.

We need to continue working on this ideal in order to achieve a better and more sustainable island. The success of ecoGozo relies heavily on our individual choices and lifestyles, and the way we influence our family, colleagues and friends. We all have a valid contribution to offer for this project to be successful.

↓ NOW IT'S YOUR TURN! ↓

To participate kindly submit through either:



Website:  
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Ministry for Gozo,  
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VCT 1335, Gozo.



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\* The report on the 2009 public consultation "A Vision for an Eco-Island" may be obtained from the ecoGozo website:

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Proposals are to be received by  
**Friday 28th  
September 2012**

