

# JOHANNESBURG SUMMIT 2002

MALTA



COUNTRY PROFILE



UNITED NATIONS

## INTRODUCTION - 2002 COUNTRY PROFILES SERIES

Agenda 21, adopted at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, underscored the important role that States play in the implementation of the Agenda at the national level. It recommended that States consider preparing national reports and communicating the information therein to the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) including, activities they undertake to implement Agenda 21, the obstacles and challenges they confront, and other environment and development issues they find relevant.

As a result, in 1993 governments began preparing national reports for submission to the CSD. After two years of following this practice, the CSD decided that a summarized version of national reports submitted thus far would be useful. Subsequently, the CSD Secretariat published the first Country Profiles series in 1997 on the occasion of the five-year review of the Earth Summit (Rio + 5). The series summarized, on a country-by-country basis, all the national reports submitted between 1994 and 1996. Each Profile covered the status of all Agenda 21 chapters.

The purpose of Country Profiles is to:

- Help countries monitor their own progress;
- Share experiences and information with others; and,
- Serve as institutional memory to track and record national actions undertaken to implement Agenda 21.

A second series of Country Profiles is being published on the occasion of the World Summit on Sustainable Development being held in Johannesburg from August 26 to September 4, 2002. Each profile covers all 40 chapters of Agenda 21, as well as those issues that have been separately addressed by the CSD since 1997, including trade, energy, transport, sustainable tourism and industry.

The 2002 Country Profiles series provides the most comprehensive overview to date of the status of implementation of Agenda 21 at the national level. Each Country Profile is based on information updated from that contained in the national reports submitted annually by governments.

Preparing national reports is often a challenging exercise. It can also be a productive and rewarding one in terms of taking stock of what has been achieved and by increasing communication, coordination and cooperation among a range of national agencies, institutions and groups. Hopefully, the information contained in this series of Country Profiles will serve as a useful tool for learning from the experience and knowledge gained by each country in its pursuit of sustainable development.

## **NOTE TO READERS**

The 2002 Country Profiles Series provides information on the implementation of Agenda 21 on a country-by-country and chapter-by-chapter basis (with the exception of chapters 1 and 23, which are preambles). Since Rio 1992, the Commission on Sustainable Development has specifically addressed other topics not included as separate chapters in Agenda 21. These issues of trade, industry, energy, transport and sustainable tourism are, therefore, treated as distinct sections in the Country Profiles. In instances where several Agenda 21 chapters are closely related, for example, chapters 20 to 22 which cover environmentally sound management of hazardous, solid and radioactive wastes, and chapters 24 to 32 which refer to strengthening of major groups, the information appears under a single heading in the Country Profile Series. Lastly, chapters 16 and 34, which deal with environmentally sound management of biotechnology, and transfer of environmentally sound technology, cooperation, capacity-building respectively, are presented together under one heading in those Country Profiles where information is relatively scarce.

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**LIST OF COMMONLY USED ACRONYMS**

ACS	Association of Caribbean States
AMCEN	Africa Ministerial Conference on the Environment
AMU	Arab Maghreb Union
APEC	Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
CARICOM	The Caribbean Community and Common Market
CBD	Convention on Biological Diversity
CIS	Commonwealth of Independent States
CGIAR	Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research
CILSS	Permanent Inter-State Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel
CITES	Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa
CSD	Commission on Sustainable Development of the United Nations
DESA	Department for Economic and Social Affairs
ECA	Economic Commission for Africa
ECCAS	Economic Community for Central African States
ECE	Economic Commission for Europe
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EEZ	Exclusive Economic Zone
EIA	Environmental Impact Assessment
ESCAP	Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia
EU	European Union
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FIDA	Foundation for International Development Assistance
GATT	General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade
GAW	Global Atmosphere Watch (WMO)
GEF	Global Environment Facility
GEMS	Global Environmental Monitoring System (UNEP)
GESAMP	Joint Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
GIS	Geographical Information Systems
GLOBE	Global Legislators Organisation for a Balanced Environment
GOS	Global Observing System (WMO/WWW)
GRID	Global Resource Information Database
HIV/AIDS	Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
IAEA	International Atomic Energy Agency
ICSC	International Civil Service Commission
ICSU	International Council of Scientific Unions
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
ICTSD	International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development

IEEA	Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFCS	Intergovernmental Forum on Chemical Safety
IGADD	Intergovernmental Authority on Drought and Development
ILO	International Labour Organisation
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IMO	International Maritime Organization
IOC	Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission
IPCC	Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change
IPCS	International Programme on Chemical Safety
IPM	Integrated Pest Management
IRPTC	International Register of Potentially Toxic Chemicals
ISDR	International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
ISO	International Organization for Standardization
ITTO	International Tropical Timber Organization
IUCN	International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources
LA21	Local Agenda 21
LDCs	Least Developed Countries
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships
MEAs	Multilateral Environmental Agreements
NEAP	National Environmental Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NSDS	National Sustainable Development Strategies
OAS	Organization of American States
OAU	Organization for African Unity
ODA	Official Development Assistance/Overseas Development Assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
PPP	Public-Private Partnership
PRSP	Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers
SACEP	South Asian Cooperative Environment Programme
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARD	Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SPREP	South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
UN	United Nations
UNAIDS	United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS
UNCED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNCCD	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
UNCHS	United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
UNCLOS	United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNDRO	Office of the United Nations Disaster Relief Coordinator
UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme

UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNFF	United Nations Forum on Forests
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNIDO	United Nations Industrial Development Organization
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women
UNU	United Nations University
WFC	World Food Council
WHO	World Health Organization
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
WSSD	World Summit on Sustainable Development
WTO	World Trade Organization
WWF	World Wildlife Fund
WWW	World Weather Watch (WMO)

## **CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED DOMESTIC POLICIES**

**Decision-Making:** Decision-making is through a normal consultative process culminating at cabinet level. Consultations are through normal information channels with e-mails etc. Actually there is no official set-up. Malta has established many legal notices amongst which are the following: L.N. 12 of 2001: Trees & Woodlands (Protection) Regulations, 2001; L.N. 244 of 2000: Trade in Species of Fauna & Flora (Amendment) Regulations, 2000; LN 214 (2000): Marine Mammals (Protection) (Amendment) Regulations; LN 205 (2000): Environment Protection (Control of Transboundary Movement of Toxic and other Substances) Regulations; LN 161 (1999): Flora and Fauna Protection (Amendment) Regulations; LN 158 (1998): Non-alcoholic Beverages (Control of Containers) Regulations; LN 106 (1998): Birds and Wild Rabbit Regulations, (Declaration of Protected Species and Nature Reserves) Amendments; LN 24 (1997): Regulations to further amend the Regulations on the Protection of Birds and the Wild Rabbit. Amendments; LN 23 (1997): The Protection of Birds and Wild Rabbit (Amendment) Regulations, 1997; LN 23 (1997): 1997 Regulations to further amend the regulations on the Protection of Birds and the Wild Rabbit; LN 221 (1997): Birds and Wild Rabbit Regulations, Amendments; LN 216 (1997): Birds and Wild Rabbit Regulations Amendments; LN 215 (1997): Birds and Wild Rabbit Regulations, Amendments (Declaration of Protected Species and Nature Reserves); LN 214 (1997): Commencement Notice of coming into force of Section 49 of the EPD; LN 196 (1997): Motor Vehicles (Off-roading) Regulations; LN 160 (1997): Rubble Walls and Rural Structures, Regulations; LN 155 (1997): Marine Mammals (Amendment) Protection Regulations; LN 150 (1997): Fees Ordinance Fees. Fees for CITES Certificates, Regulations; LN 140 (1997): Regulations of 1997 to Amend the Regulations on Trade in Species of Wild Flora and Fauna; LN 128 (1997): Deposit of Waste and Rubble (Fees) Regulations, 1997; LN 45 (1996): Regulations to further amend the Regulations on the Protection of Birds and the Wild Rabbit; LN 44 (1996): 1996 Regulations to amend the Regulations on the protection of Birds and the Wild Rabbit; LN 133 (1995): Environment Protection (Control of Substances Depleting The Ozone Layer Regulations); and etc.

Malta is a founding member of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and hence our trading policy is regulated by the agreements emanating from the WTO. In this respect, we had to amend a number of our trading laws in order to be in line with the WTO. Malta participates in Mediterranean Action Plan and The Mediterranean Commission on Sustainable Development (MCSDD). Malta participates at all major meetings on sustainable development and is party to many international legal instruments which promote and support sustainable development like UNFCCC; Convention to Combat Desertification etc. Malta is also a member of the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan as well as a State party to most of the environmental conventions, such as the MARPOL and the London Dumping Conventions, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the Framework Convention on Climate Change and recently the Convention on Biological Diversity. Malta hosts the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) and the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI), both partly financed by the International Maritime Organization. In the past a system of subsidies has ensured that local manufacturers were privileged vis-à-vis foreign businesses. This system of protectionism obviously is being phased out as a result of globalization and free trade which Maltese policy endorses. For example, a restructuring for local industry is being proposed and affected to ensure the least possible negative effects. Major groups are consulted when it comes to drafting of new legislation that affects them in anyway. Their advice and suggestions are carefully considered and the end result is often a compromise. It has a healthy relationship with private enterprise; sometimes the private enterprise has acted as a catalyst. To ensure adherence to international legal instruments for example, The Federation of Industry has put pressure on government to adhere or accede to Basel Convention on Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal.

**Programmes and Projects:** Malta has GEF programmes regarding UNFCCC; UNDP funding to draft a new Environment Protection Act (EPA), which now has been finalized and published and entered into force last September; and institution building within the Environment Department in 1997.

**Status:** Differences are in the following issues: interests; economic; cultural; political systems; and legal systems. The most immediate attention for bilateral or multilateral cooperation should be towards the following programmes: Waste Management; Capacity Building; and Coastal Zone Management. The major challenge in building multi-stakeholder partnerships, particularly with NGOs, the private sector, scientific community, etc. is resolving conflict of interests between the national government and the major groups. Malta has already removed most of the trade barriers to certain extent and those remaining will be phased by 2003.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** To promote public awareness on the need for closer international cooperation for sustainable development, Malta works with major groups for instance, utilization of the media, and other means of information dissemination. Public seminars are conducted in collaboration with NGO, and they include Audio Visuals, publicity campaigns and setting up of website. It is intended that an Environment Protection Authority will be set up which will be independent and autonomous from government. Proposals and studies have been conducted to ensure that training programme for personnel as well as financial investment in technical equipment etc. would meet with the Authority's needs to fulfill its role as the guardian of sustainable development in Malta according to the latest technical and scientific information.

**Information:** The ministries and departments are in the process of setting up their Web site and hence it will eventually be possible to access it via Internet. All the information related to international cooperation is available to the public on demand.

**Research and Technologies:** Emphasis is placed on the dissemination of technology and technical know how in general but maybe there is not a similar impetus for its use to enhance sustainable development. There is however an institution set up between the Environment Protection Department and the University of Malta called the Cleaner Technology Centre to fulfill such a role. The Cleaner Technology Centre studies possible alliances that may take place.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** Malta is a party to many multilateral and regional international legal instruments, which promote environment protection, and hence it participates also in fora such as the Mediterranean Commission for Sustainable Development. It also has worked with other small island developing states to assess sustainability indicators in small islands. (See **Chapter 39** for the Treaties in force in Malta). Bilateral trade agreements Malta is party to be subject to WTO rules. Malta took the initiative to propose a CSD for the Mediterranean and a new institution is being set up to assess sustainability indicators at the University of Malta. The Planning Authority also works on sustainability indications to incorporate these in development planning policies. Joint research, professional networking, or other activities related to sustainable development between experts in our country and those outside is carried out in collaboration with foreign experts. Cooperation amongst small island developing states which have the same acute problems to ensure sustainability from an environmental perspective as their sustainability indicators different from those of larger countries.

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**CHAPTER 2: INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION TO ACCELERATE SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AND RELATED  
DOMESTIC POLICIES - TRADE**

See information in previous **Chapter 2**.

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### **CHAPTER 3: COMBATING POVERTY**

**Decision-Making:** No information available.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## **CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS**

**Decision-Making:** No information available.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - ENERGY

**Decision-Making:** The Malta Resources Authority was established in February 2001, within the Ministry for the Environment. The Malta Resources Authority Act provided for the devolution of regulatory and monitoring functions from the supply functions (Enemalta Corporation). Enemalta Corporation remained the sole supplier of energy products in Malta (inland supply) falling under the responsibility of Ministry for Economic Services and as governed by the now amended Enemalta Act (1977).

Policy formulation and authority to issue regulations is centralized and has been transferred to the Malta Resources Authority. A national energy policy will be established by the first quarter of 2002. Environmental and consumption efficiency issues are addressed jointly with the Malta Transport Authority and the Environment Protection Department. Emission control from the transport sector is governed by Traffic Regulations.

Subsidiary legislation to the Environment Protection Act (2001) will regulate fuel quality for transport and energy sectors. Fiscal instruments are in place to promote the use of unleaded petrol and the use of solar panels for domestic water heating. Malta is gradually aligning with the European *acquis* in energy area, environment and transport areas. The introduction of energy supply from renewable sources will be given preference in the process of liberalization of the sector.

**Programmes and Projects:** All rural and urban areas of the islands have access to electricity and water (50% of which is dependent on electricity powered desalination plants). Since 1990s, Malta has adopted the best available techniques policy to power production. Steam plants were converted to fuel oil (formerly coal) and now burning lower sulphur grades of fuel. Moreover, installations since 1995 (150 MW) run on gas-oil. Planned installations for 2004-5 would apply the same combined cycle plant technology. Malta is also assessing the feasibility of supplying natural gas to 85% of its power plants through an interconnecting pipeline from Sicily.

Transport: Improvement of fuel quality – Diesel motor fuel with low sulphur content has been introduced on the market in March 2001. Malta will ban the marketing of leaded petrol in the medium term. In January 2002, the second phase of Vehicle road-worthiness testing will be introduced and will include emissions testing for all vehicles for 4 years.

**Status:** Transport sector depends totally on fossil fuels, namely diesel, leaded and unleaded petrol. Unleaded petrol consumption is increasing and now (2001) represents 40% of total petrol consumption. Total petrol sales have stabilized at 1995 levels and now represent 50% of total automotive fuel market. Automotive diesel sales have maintained an upward trend since 1997.

Electricity sector demand has reached 1801 GWh in 2000 shared equally by the industrial, commercial and the tertiary sector. The consumption of the tertiary sector has been the fastest growing in the last decade. However, electricity consumption per unit of GPD (in real terms) has been steadily decreasing since 1992. As in 2000, 1.2 GWh were consumed per MTL 1.0 million GDP (real terms) from 1.6 GWh in 1992. Monitoring of air quality to date has been sporadic. The Environment Protection Department will comprehensively and regularly monitor air quality as from the first quarter of 2002.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Information campaigns to date have been sporadic. The Malta Resources Authority is planning for a launch of a user awareness campaign on the rational use of energy in 2002. Product labeling regulations will be adopted in March 2002 as subsidiary to the Product Safety Act (2000). This will require that household appliances will bear energy efficiency labeling on the product. Moreover, in January 2002, a fuel cost adjustment factor will be introduced in the pricing mechanism of all energy products. The new pricing mechanism aims to progressively achieve end-user prices that reflect the true cost of the individual energy products. This policy together with fiscal instruments already in place is expected to shift consumption towards greener energy products.

**Information:** The Environment Section of National Statistics Office issues (as from 2001) regular press releases on the energy supply and demand. Air quality results are published by the Environment Protection Department.

**Research and Technologies:** Policy oriented research will be initiated and conducted mainly by the Malta Resources Authority. The Institute of Energy Technology and other faculties of the University of Malta have conducted various projects on the technical feasibility of renewable energy production in Malta, mainly solar and wind. The results of these projects provide a useful platform for further research in the field and for eventual applicability.

In June 2001, Malta signed its participation agreement for the EU fifth framework programme. It also intends to participate in the FP6 commencing in June 2002. The Malta Council for Science and Technology is the responsible government entity to promote and facilitate Maltese researchers to seek partners, funding and co-operation in its four thematic and three horizontal programmes, one of which is Energy, Environment and Sustainable Development. Moderate success has already been registered with energy related projects.

**Financing:** Projects are mainly financed directly by central ministries and Enemalta Corporation's budgets or through their capacity to raise loans from local and foreign banks. Some projects benefit from pre-accession funds allocated for Malta by the European Union.

**Cooperation:** United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP); Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP); UN Convention on Environment and Development (UNCED); UN Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD); UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC); Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer; Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer; Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal; International Commission for the Scientific Exploration of the Mediterranean Sea (ICSEM); World Meteorological Organization; UN Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS); International Sea Bed-Authority (ISA); UN Convention on Biological Diversity (UNCBD); International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA); and Energy Charter Treaty.

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## CHAPTER 4: CHANGING CONSUMPTION PATTERNS - TRANSPORT

**Decision-Making:** Government ministries/ agencies responsible for making decisions in the management and improvement of the transport system include: Ministry of Transport and Communications, Roads Department; Public Transport Authority; Planning Authority; Traffic Control Board; Traffic Police; and Local Councils Co-ordination is on bilateral bases, although soon a transport authority should be set up to co-ordinate most of the functions. Strategic transport policy is still prepared by the Planning Authority and approved by parliament, whereas less strategic policies are set by other agencies. Local councils are responsible for organizing parking allocation, and make proposals for traffic management schemes, although the latter need to be approved by the traffic control board and sometimes also by the Planning Authority. Legislation and Regulations are as follows: Code of Police Laws; Public Transport Authority Act 1988; Development Planning Act 1992; and Malta Transport Authority Act 2000 (Still to be enacted). Since 1992, VRT (Vehicle Roadworthiness Tests) was introduced aimed at reducing polluting and improving safety. Overall strategy is to reduce the need for travel by allocating land-uses which attract trips close to those which generate them. There is no integrated strategy for transport infrastructure. What comes to the road networks, no new roads are to be constructed, but improvement of existing network is essential. No particular non-governmental group exists. Public opinion for development of transport policy is gathered through “Household travel surveys” and “Public attitude surveys” conducted by the Planning Authority. No particular region/population group has been emphasized. However, the situation in the inner harbor area is more acute due to the high volumes of traffic using it every day. Private sector plays a minimal role in the decision-making, planning, management and operation processes of transport related issues.

**Programmes and Projects:** A project is underway to create a park-and-ride scheme for Valletta by stopping cars outside the Peninsula and taking shopping people in the historic city by means of electronic buses.

**Status:** For a few years unleaded petrol was cheaper than leaded petrol. However the last two years the prices have been the same. Bus service requires the most immediate attention in improving transport efficiency and reducing damages to the ecosystems. Traditional system of ownership of buses makes any improvement of public transport particularly impossible, because authorities have to deal with many owners (500) rather than with one or a few companies.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** There was a short-term advertising campaign by the Public Transport Authority in 1995 and 1996 which had very little effect. There was a one year campaign by the Traffic Police, using billboards, television adverts as well as local meetings for children.

**Information:** There are continuous automatic traffic counts in various strategic locations in Malta and Gozo and household travel survey to establish origin-destination matrix.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## CHAPTER 5: DEMOGRAPHIC DYNAMICS AND SUSTAINABILITY

**Decision-Making:** The Central Office of Statistics is the main supplier of information with regard to Demographic Dynamics. The Central Office of Statistics was formerly established by Act XV of 1955, as a Government Department for the collection and compilation of official statistics in the areas specified in law. Now a newly proposed Act is being drafted which will embody the latest fundamental concepts of official statistics. Furthermore, as a candidate country of EU, Malta has to satisfy the requirements of Eurostat, the statistical office of the EU, even in so far as the statistics law governing the collection and compilation of official statistics is concerned. It is also intended to establish the necessary legal and logistical infrastructure for the production of official statistics that are timely, reliable, transparent and comparable.

**Programmes and Projects:** Projection of the Maltese population is carried every year and now, even information on the environment is being collected and published.

**Status:** The National Statistics Office made considerable progress in the collection of data. Now, there is an immediate challenge to satisfy the EU *acquis communautaire*, especially where statistics on various environmental issues have to be collected.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** The University is offering courses which will produce expertise in this field, especially in the collection of environmental statistics, which is a new field that Malta has now divulged to work in. Obviously this data is very important especially for sustainable development since it will provide tools for planning.

**Information:** The National Statistics Office issues several publications on the Maltese demography. During these past few years even statistics on the environment are regularly published.

**Research and Technologies:** As stated from the outset, the function of the National Statistics Office is to make research on the demographic status of Malta and give out the information.

**Financing:** Most of the finance is given out from the national budget.

**Cooperation:** The National Statistics Office works in co-operation with other international entities like Eurostat, United Nations, OECD, IMF and other private observatories.

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## CHAPTER 6: PROTECTING AND PROMOTING HUMAN HEALTH

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry of Health is responsible for the financing and provision of health care for all the population. It has several regulatory functions and it nominates members on Government Commissions and Agencies related to health. The Permanent Secretary is the administrative head within the Ministry and has the responsibility to support the general policies and priorities of the government and to cooperate within the content of management practices and procedures established for the government as a whole. He also has the duty to provide support and advice to the minister, to provide leadership, to manage financial and human resources effectively and efficiently, to contribute to the collective management of government and to ascertain coordination of policies between all departments falling within the responsibilities of the Ministry.

The Director General (DG) (Health) is the head of the Health Division and is also the superintendent of Public Health. The DG (Health) must ensure that health services in Malta provide the highest affordable standard of care. The DG (Health) is legally responsible for all public health matters including communicable disease and environmental health. He has the responsibility for providing advice to the minister on matters relating to health and health care. However in matters pertaining to allocation of financial resources, the DG (Health) advises the minister through the Permanent Secretary. The DG (Health) is supported by the various departments that perform an integrating role across the National Health Service.

The Director of Primary Health Care is responsible for primary care services and the management of health centers while the Director of Institutional Health is responsible for management of state hospitals. There are also a number of other ministries which have a health-related function, like the Ministry for Social Policy; The Ministry of Finance; the Ministry of Education; the Ministry for Home Affairs; the Ministry for Economic Services; the Council of Health; the Mental Health Review Tribunal; The Foundation for Medical Services; the National Commission for Persons with Disability; the National Commission for Mental Health; the Commission for the Promotion of Occupational Health and Safety; and Sedqa (a Maltese name), which is a government agency that has recently been transferred from the Ministry of Health to the Ministry for Social Policy. It acts as a policy advocate, advisory body and service provider against substance abuse. It also educates about substance abuse. Furthermore, there are a number of Government Boards, whose main role is to act as advisors to the DG (Health) and the Minister on specific issues. There are also a number of legal Acts and regulations that regulates this sector, amongst which are the Department of Health (Constitution) Ordinance, the Medical and Kindred Professionals Act, Mental Health Act, Prevention of Disease Ordinance, Food, Drugs and Drinking Water Act, Tobacco Smoking Control Act which is partially repealed by the Food Safety Bill, which is at Committee stage in Parliament, and the Health Care Professional Act. Together one has to add the Public Health Act, which will enter into force by 2002, and other legislations, which are still in draft, form such as the Medicines Act and the Tobacco Smoking Control Act.

**Programmes and Projects:** There is a health appraisal program with WHO whereby policies, decisions and strategies are assessed and seen whether they are good for Malta. Discussions are taking place to draw up a health impact assessment. Other programmes and projects are those whereby health promotion is made to promote disease prevention and healthy lifestyle. Furthermore, work is being carried out to replace the incinerators in clinics and adopt a better means for clinical waste. And there is also an on-going programme on bathing monitoring.

**Status:** With Malta aiming to join the EU, many challenges lay ahead. In fact a lot of projects and programs are being envisaged in order to achieve compliance with the *acquis*. Mainly these involve the drafting of new legislation in conformity with EU directives and the building up of an administrative body necessary for the implementation of these new legal instruments. In the meantime there is the construction of a new hospital, which is taking place, and there is now the decentralization of the authority whereby the Ministry will no longer be responsible for services. This responsibility will fall upon the hospital, which will be autonomous. There will also be an authority, which will regulate all medicines on the market.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** There will be the setup of the Medical Authority. There is training overseas in various areas like management, public health and medicines. Foreign experts are also invited to train our staff. In addition, the country has a continuous health promotion campaign,

mainly in schools on diet, physical exercise and sexual education. Promotion is also done through the publication of posters, booklets, leaflets etc. and on television and radio programs.

**Information:** The Department of Health keeps a number of databases and registers on various issues like mortality, cancer, congenital malformations, obstetrics and others. Apart from this, public reports are issued and are made accessible to the public.

**Research and Technologies:** At the moment a national health interview survey developed with WHO and Eurostat is going on.

**Financing:** Financing comes mainly from the national budget.

**Cooperation:** There is co-operation with WHO and with EU organizations such as Hospitals of the European Union (HOPE), Eurostat and IAEA. There are bilateral agreements too mostly with United Kingdom (UK) and Australia, especially on provisions of healthcare and on educational and training programmes. There is also co-operation with the Council of Europe.

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## **CHAPTER 7: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT DEVELOPMENT**

**Decision-Making:** No information available.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## CHAPTER 8: INTEGRATING ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT IN DECISION-MAKING

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry for the Environment is responsible for national issues relating to environment protection, although development-planning in land-use, falls under the responsibility of the Planning Authority, a quasi-autonomous body, which is answerable to the Ministry for the Interior. Decisions in policy making are taken at Cabinet level, which includes of all ministers. The new Environment Protection Act, Act XX of 2001, has established a National Commission for Sustainable Development (NCS D) under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister. The set up of the NCS D is as follows:

- (a) All Ministers *ex officio* or their representatives;
- (b) Two members of the House of Representatives, one appointed by the Prime Minister and the other by the Leader of the Opposition;
- (c) A representative of the Authority;
- (d) The Chairman of the Malta Council for Economic and Social Development *ex officio*;
- (e) Representatives of such public entities as in the opinion of the Prime Minister are relevant to the functions of the Commission;
- (f) A representative of the association of local councils; and
- (g) Representatives of organizations which represent or have an interest in business, industry and/or industrial relations, scientific and academic bodies, the media, and other non-governmental organizations, which in the opinion of the Prime Minister are relevant to the functions of the Commission.

The NCS D's functions are also specified in the law.

- (a) To advocate sustainable development across all sectors of Malta, review progress in the achievement of such sustainable development and to build consensus on action needed to achieve further progress;
- (b) To identify any relevant process or policy which may be undermining sustainable development and propose alternative processes or policies to the Government for adoption;
- (c) To identify trends which may significantly give rise to unsustainable development and which will not be reversed on the basis of current or planned action, and recommend action to reverse such trends;
- (d) To increase awareness of the need that development must be sustainable;
- (e) To encourage and stimulate good practice in the use and management of natural resources, in particular their minimal use and maximum reuse by recycling in an environmentally sustainable;
- (f) To prepare a National Strategy for Sustainable Development; and
- (g) To carry out such other functions in relation to sustainable development as may be assigned to it by the Prime Minister.

The NCS D's recommendations and decisions shall not have an executive force but shall be considered as authoritative recommendations of best practice in achieving sustainable development.

**Programmes and Projects:** A number of initiatives have been taken by: the Ministry for the Environment; the University of Malta (Small States Institute); and Non-Governmental Organizations with the support of the UNEP and MAP. A number of seminars have been organized for the general public and policy makers. A report on Environment and Sustainable Development in Malta has been written, whilst a set of sustainability indicators is being drawn up as applicable for Malta. The NCS D will definitely be in a position to delve into these initiatives and support and supplement them.

**Status:** See under **Programmes and Projects**.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** The Environment Protection Department and the Environment Management Unit of the Planning Authority have invested in human resources and their training by recruiting a substantial number of young graduates in environmental sciences to carry out the requisite research and work upon policy instruments in the various environmental sectors notably land-use, waste management, conservation of biodiversity and air and water quality.

The Environment Protection Department promotes environmental education through its publications. The Planning Authority draws up plans and policies governing land-use. The Planning Authority is also responsible for the Structure Plan and supplementary documents as well as the conduct of consultations, with the public and the private sector.

**Information:** The official website of the Environment Protection Department provides essential information on policies and legislation as well as current information on environmental issues. The web page address is: [www.environment.gov.mt](http://www.environment.gov.mt). The Environment Protection Department has also published a State of the Environment report, which is bound by law to revise every 3 years. The official website of the Planning Authority is [www.pa-malta.org](http://www.pa-malta.org).

**Research and Technologies:** A group of experts are working on a set of sustainability indicators that are adequate for Malta. Project has not yet been finalized.

**Financing:** No specific budget allocated. Financing from general funds as provided to the Environment Protection Department and the Planning Authority in the annual budget. Once the NCSD starts functioning the Government will allocate a specific budget to it. NGOs are allocated funds by the government through the Environment Protection Department but there exist no specific details as to how much is spent on this topic.

**Cooperation:** This issue does not apply to the country.

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## CHAPTER 9: PROTECTION OF THE ATMOSPHERE

**Decision-Making:** Ministry for the Environment is responsible for making the decisions for protecting the atmosphere. The main designated authority is the Environment Protection Department (EPD). The Environment Protection Department also coordinates with other governmental and non-governmental entities including the Department of Public Health and the University of Malta on issues relating to effects on health and other research programmes. Initiatives usually commence from the Pollution Control Coordinating Unit, an organ of the Environment Protection Department, which are thereupon approved at higher levels and translated into legislation. A new Environment Protection Act has been brought into force in September 2001. Under this new act several regulations have been adopted and which vary from legislative tools intended to safeguard ambient air quality (including regulating the quality of fuels) to other means for controlling air pollution from industrial plants. These regulations are in line with similar environment legislation adopted by the European Union. National standards for ambient air quality would therefore be based on WHO Air Quality Guidelines and EU Air Quality Standards. Notwithstanding that Malta will also be adopting the standards being adopted by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE) in response to provisions emanating under the UNECE Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution Convention (Geneva, 1979) and to which it is a contracting party. Other domestic legislation include the LN 133 of 95 for the Control of ODS Regulations and the Clean Air Act of 1967 which is intended to protect human health.

Monitoring activities had been conducted by the Environment Protection Department since 1993. However the most comprehensive and elaborate monitoring activity had been prepared in 1998 following a project entitled "Air Pollution in Malta" was commissioned through funds made available by the UNDP. This study in turn catalyzed the launching of the first-ever National Ambient Air Monitoring Programme (NOAA). This programme eventually succeeded and complemented other monitoring studies namely that for greenhouse gases carried out through 1993-1997 together with NOAA in the light of obligations emanating under the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change and since 1993, the monitoring of background air being conducted by the Physics Department of University of Malta with the assistance of Max Plank Institute. Monitoring for heavy metals in background air had been conducted in 1998 together with the University of Venice through assistance given by the World Meteorological Office and the Med-Unit Athens (UNEP). The Environment Protection Department has also been represented on the Clean Air Board that is established under the Clean Air Act 1967.

In the field of enforcement it should be highlighted that trade activities licensed since 1992 include conditions set by the Environment Protection Department for the control of emissions to atmosphere. Imports and exports of ozone depleting substances are also very rigorously monitored.

**Programmes and Projects:** The National Air Monitoring Programme consists of two main elements. Continuous monitoring for sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, ozone and particulate matter PM10 is conducted in urban areas using mobile air monitoring stations equipped with state-of-the art monitoring devices. Another element of the programme comprises of passive monitoring for sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, nitrogen dioxide, ozone, benzene, toluene, xylene and ethyl benzene from over 30 localities in Malta and Gozo. The Background Air Monitoring being conducted by the University of Malta supplements the National Air Monitoring Programme.

**Status:** The greenhouse emissions per capita had been steadily increasing during the past years as a result of progress and economic development. It is the intention of the Government to pursue cleaner technologies and other programmes to stabilize greenhouse gas emissions. There is minimal proportion of land that could be considered as greenhouse gas sinks in Malta. There has also been a substantial decrease in the importation of CFCs during the past ten years from circa 300 tons per annum to approximately 90 tons per annum. Methyl bromide use has also dropped to circa 30 tons per annum in recent years. In this regard it is very likely that we will be following EU policies concerning air pollution issues. From preliminary air monitoring data it seems that the levels of air pollutants in Malta have not yet reached a stage as to be deleterious to health. SO<sub>2</sub> is sometimes higher than expected in the vicinity of the power plant located to southern part of the islands. Problems related to particulates (PM<sub>10</sub>) are currently under investigation.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Throughout the year public awareness activities are organized and pamphlets are delivered to the participants. Items utilized by the Environment Protection Department including the air monitoring equipment were on display for the public. Throughout the year other public campaigns are organized by the Ministry for Environment, in fact recently there has been a science week and a week on air pollution. Environmental science is on the national curriculum and is taught at post-secondary level.

**Information:** In Malta, the country uses different methods for dissemination of information about air quality and these include: the Internet; newspapers; lectures; and pamphlets. The Environment Protection Department (EPD) website provides information gathered as a result of the National Air Monitoring Programmes as well as results emanating from other research studies or similar initiatives. The International Ozone Day is also celebrated. This will involve the publication of pamphlets and the participation of school children in contests. Furthermore seminars by the EPD in conjunction with cleaner technology centers are usually organized. Moreover the topic is also discussed on television and radio stations and even on promotional programmes.

**Research and Technologies:** Research studies are usually carried out by the University of Malta and since 1992 several studies had been produced covering for lead in air, dust fall-out, sulphur dioxide, ozone, etc. Research studies have also been conducted with respect to effects of air pollution e.g. effects of air pollution on crops that was carried out in the 2000 by the Environment Protection Department in conjunction with the Institute for Agricultural Sciences (University of Malta).

Elimination of air pollution had been actively sought primarily by introducing cleaner fuels (e.g. by using lower sulphur in fuel oil fired at the power plants, by introducing unleaded petrol and by lowering the lead content in leaded fuel). The Government has also been investing in Combined Cycle Technology for the generation of electricity. More passively, several transport plans have been adopted including the extension and construction of new roads to decrease as far as possible the exposure of air pollutants in densely populated areas.

**Financing:** The Government of Malta has for the past three years invested more than a quarter of a million liras for monitoring the quality of ambient air. Moreover there has been investment in cleaner technology projects. Amongst these there are construction of a new power plant at Delimara and the installation of Combined Cycle Technology. Moreover there has been the refurbishment of the electrostatic precipitators in the old power station. And there has also been the use of chemical additives to fuels, which will ensure better combustion and lessen NOx and particulates emissions. And since 1993 there has been the elimination of boilers and gas turbines or combined gas turbines is now being used.

**Cooperation:** The Environment Protection Department has been participating with the European Environment Agency, Core Inventories Air (CORINAIR) programmes and national emissions inventories have been produced for 1990, 1994 and 1997 respectively. Moreover national emission inventories for greenhouse gases and the National Communication that is required by the UNFCCC are being prepared by the Physics Department of the University of Malta as a result of a project that has been financed by the GEF and UNDP. Malta is party to the following treaties and actively participates and fora related to: The UNECE Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution Convention (Geneva, 1979) and the European Monitoring and Evaluation Programme (EMEP) Protocol: The Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer 1985 and the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer 1987 (including the London Amendments); The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Malta intends to sign the Copenhagen Amendments to the Montreal Protocol and the Kyoto Protocol to the UNFCCC in the very near future.

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## CHAPTER 10: INTEGRATED APPROACH TO THE PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT OF LAND RESOURCES

**Decision-Making:** The management of land resources in such a small country as the Maltese Islands is of paramount importance. In 1998, the Maltese Government set in motion a mechanism that would eventually set up a land-use planning framework for the Islands. In 1990, the first Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands was formulated. This document set the land-use planning framework for the following 20 years and allowed for the production of more detailed Local, Subject and Action Plans dealing with land-use issues of a regional or more detailed nature.

In 1992, the Development Planning Act was established which regulates development and land-use in the Islands and gives legal standing to the Structure Plan. The following entities are responsible for the planning and management of land resources: Planning Authority; Department of Agriculture and Fisheries; Environment Protection Department; Malta Resources Authority; and Lands Department.

Legislation includes the Development Planning Act (Act I of 1992 and amendments); the Environment Protection Act (Act XX of 2001); and the Malta Resources Authority Act (Act XXV of 2000). New Regulations on Environmental Impact Assessment have been published recently (September 11, 2001) and replace previous guidance on the topic, which were produced in 1993.

The Planning Authority is the major player in this respect and is responsible for the formulations of the Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands; seven Local Plans (Gozo and Comino Local Plan, North West Local Plan, Central Malta Local Plan, North Harbors Local Plan, Grand Harbor Local Plan, South Malta Local Plan and Marsaxlokk Bay Local Plan); and various Subject Studies and Action Plans. These various plans, together with a host of other policy guidance documents, focus on spatial planning, the control and enforcement of development, the planning and management of urban, rural, coastal and marine areas. The 1990 Structure Plan is currently being revised and a replacement plan is expected to be published by end 2002. Several topic papers are being prepared as part of this process, and these cover topics as diverse as Coastal, Rural and Urban Strategies, Leisure and Recreation, Tourism, Employment, Transport, Utilities and Infrastructure, Housing, Minerals, Waste Management, Social and Community Facilities and Demography.

As a prelude to the formulation of such plans, the Planning Authority undertakes a number of studies and surveys, including environmental resources surveys. These have included habitat surveys, surveys on the geology and mineral resources of the country and archaeological, landscape, hydrological, agricultural and marine surveys.

Other studies and plans are prepared by other entities for area specific issues such as energy, tourism, environment, biodiversity, fisheries and education. These have included strategic plans and state of the environment reports. Several surveys and reports dealing with land use and resources management (including capacity building) have been prepared over the past year as part of Malta's EU-accession process.

These various reports are formulated by experts and planners (depending on the topic), often in consultation with specific interest groups and/or stakeholders. These include Local Councils, Constituted bodies, Unions, Non-Governmental Organizations and the General Public. In the case of planning documents, formulation begins with a consultation stage among stakeholders and a number of other public participation exercises are undertaken at later stages of the process. In particular, the plan is published in draft form and subject to public consultation, which can take various forms. A final version of the plan is only published following detailed consideration of the comments received by interested public.

**Programmes and Projects:** The implementation of this part of Agenda 21 is mainly effected through the planning system. This includes the formulation (or revision) of strategic planning documents like the Structure Plan for the Maltese Islands, Local Plans, and other subsidiary planning documents. During the formulation of these documents,

a considerable amount of consultation (with Government entities, constituted bodies, NGOs, pressure groups and the general public) is undertaken as well as formal public participation events for discussions on the draft plans.

**Status:** Considerable progress has been achieved in this sector since the 1992 Rio Conference. That same year, the Planning Authority was set up and entrusted with administering the local land-use planning system. The first Structure Plan was also brought into force that same year and, since then, 4 of the 7 Local Plans have been finalized, with the remaining 3 nearing completion. Five subject studies (dealing with Golf, Yachting, Retail, Waste Management and Minerals) have been prepared, as have two Action Plans and several Development Briefs. The Structure Plan is currently being reviewed through a rigorous programme of data collection and update.

A few notable achievements over the period have included the arresting of urban sprawl, which had greatly affected the traditional character of the Islands over the previous decades, the marked deceleration in loss of agricultural land, and the decline in coastal development. This does not mean that there aren't problems or constraints. The biggest constraint is obviously the small size of the country, which leads to continual user conflict for the limited resource that is space. Pressures for development in the countryside still exist. Illegal development, leading to environmental degradation is also still prevalent although there has also been a marked improvement in enforcement action, including the demolition of illegal buildings. A greater environmental conscience has also led to a proliferation of environmental NGOs and other pressure groups, which often make their voices heard. Public participation has also been on the increase, from the modest start in the early 1990s in connection with the formulation of the Malta Structure Plan. Today, public consultation occurs in the formulation of any planning document and public access to information is increasing, especially as a result of the Internet. Most, if not all, Government entities have their own websites through which they inform the public of their activities and provide access to information in their possession.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Human resources within the Planning Authority, which is the competent authority with regards to the planning and management of land resources, are largely adequate although some improvements and consolidation in some areas, especially monitoring and enforcement are required.

With regards to education, this has been catered for both through formal academic courses, especially at tertiary level (Faculty of Architecture, Faculty of Economics) as well as through *ad hoc* training courses for adults and particularly on-the-job training seminars. Some aspects have also been dealt with in informal education programmes including with school children.

Public awareness schemes have also dealt with this topic, usually in connection with the launch of planning documents, such as: Local Plans; Subject Plans; and Action Plans. Different awareness raising techniques have been used over the years, including publications (posters, brochures, leaflets, booklets, etc.), radio programmes, television adverts and short slots, international conferences, public participation meetings (including discussion meetings, roundtable meetings, information meetings), as well as newspaper articles, adverts, reports and provision of up-to-date information and greater public access through websites.

**Information:** Land resources databases are maintained by a number of agencies, including the Planning Authority, the National Statistics Office and the Environment Protection Department. The majority of these databases are maintained by the Planning Authority, which also houses the National Mapping Office. The latter is in charge of providing detailed base maps of the Maltese Islands and manages a state-of-the-art Geographic Information System (GIS) (urban, rural and marine). Lately, a limited version of this GIS is also available on the PA's web page (<http://www.pa-malta.org>) through a map server, which includes also orthophotos. The latter were obtained through remote sensing (aerial photography) and the latest base map is being generated on this information.

The Planning Authority had also prepared an initial list of sustainability indicators for the Maltese Islands in 1997. Unfortunately these were never formally adopted. A new set of indicators are currently being prepared by the Sustainability Indicators – Malta Observatory (SI-MO) office at the University of Malta, under the auspices of the OECD.

**Research and Technologies:** Various institutions, including the Planning Authority and the University of Malta, undertake considerable amount of research related to planning and management of resources. The Planning Authority, in particular carries out a lot of research in conjunction with specific planning topics. This then feeds into the formulation of planning documents such as Local Plans, Subject Plans and topic papers related to the review of the Structure Plan<sup>1</sup>. No particular technologies are applied in this research except for the usual survey techniques, the application of Geographic Information Systems and mapping.

**Financing:** Budgets for the work undertaken as part of this topic come mainly from the national budget voted yearly to the various institutions. The Planning Authority also generates a part of its funds from development permit application fees.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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<sup>1</sup> Topic papers being currently prepared include those on demography, tourism, leisure and recreation, social and community facilities, transport, utilities, minerals, waste management, landscape, a rural strategy, urban strategy and coastal strategy.

## **CHAPTER 11: COMBATING DEFORESTATION**

**Decision-Making:** No information available.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## CHAPTER 12: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: COMBATING DESERTIFICATION AND DROUGHT

**Decision-Making:** The Environment Protection Department is responsible for decision making in connection to the management of ecosystems and in combating desertification and drought. Sometimes it also cooperates with other Departments mainly with the agricultural dept. As regards desertification there are local legislation in order to regulate it. There are regulations one under the Environment Protection Act, which are the Rubble Walls regulations and Offroading regulations. And there is also the Agricultural Leases Act, which regulates this issue. As regards to ecosystems there is a number of legislations, which is referred to in chapter 15 on Conservation of Biological Diversity.

Apart from Government Departments there are also non-governmental organizations that participate in the managing of ecosystems and in combating desertification. Amongst these there are: the Nature Trust; and Bird Life; which is involved in an afforestation project for a certain area in Malta. Furthermore, the Malta Tourism Authority in collaboration with the Agricultural Department, non-governmental organizations and various local councils has embarked on a project on afforestation. And there is also the GAIA Foundation, which is responsible for the management of clay slopes. Then as regards Decision making concerning ecosystems the responsibility falls under the Environment Protection Department and the Unit in charge of this issue is the Biodiversity Protection Unit.

**Programs and Projects:** As regards ecosystems the same programs and projects mentioned in **Chapter 15** concerning biodiversity are applied. Together with these there is the project of Natura 2000 and the Emerald Project where there is compilation of important biotopes of the Maltese islands. In addition there is a strategic action plan for the conservation of Mediterranean Marine and Coastal Biodiversity.

As regards desertification, there is the CAMP (Coastal Area Management Programs) being carried out. This is a project of MAP (Mediterranean Action Plan), which is partially funded by MAP whereby technical assistance was provided and Malta implemented research and studies. The aim of this project is to come with a management plan for the North West of Malta. Soil erosion is also part of the project and this type of project is being carried out in Malta for the first time. This study includes physical studies, mapping and identification of processes and the social economic aspects of it and other issues. Now there are a set of recommendations and priority areas for intervention.

**Status:** As regards ecosystems refer to **Chapter 15** on Biodiversity. For desertification, one has to mention the fact that Malta is a small island and so it has a small surface area and agricultural land is continuously decreasing due to the construction of houses and new roads. Then there is also hunting and trapping which tend to change the topography since non-absorbent surfaces are created. Furthermore, there is a lack of trained people to build rubble walls. The number of full time farmers decreased and we have more part time farmers that do not have time to maintain rubble walls. As regards ecosystems there is a challenge of adequate enforcement of the various regulations concerning this topic. But the Environment Protection Department has a section of inspectorate attached to the biodiversity protection unit. Their function is to inspect upon protected species and most of the time they are called to act as court expertise when cases on the matter arise.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** The CAMP project helped to form a group from: the Environment Protection Department; the Agricultural Department; the Planning Authority; and the University. Together, they gained a lot of experience and knowledge, and now a number of persons are capable to deal with the issue. Furthermore, this CAMP project strengthened the relationship between those involved in the project. Moreover the Environment Protection Department and non-governmental organizations have embarked on a campaign to increase awareness on the desertification problem and on the importance of rubble walls. Many of the articles issued for this purpose were published in local papers and addressed to farmers. In addition seminars were organized and publication of the proceedings was made available to the public.

Where Biodiversity and ecosystems issues are concerned, there are plans to increase technical officers and environment inspectors to cope with the work. And even on ecosystems various seminars are organized throughout

the year and afterwards there will be the publication of the seminar proceedings and these will be accessible by the public.

**Information:** Two maps have been prepared one concerning the North West of Malta, which has been prepared as a study of the state of Rubble walls, and the second map applied the FAO guidelines for erosion mapping, which were applied for three pilot areas. Now different overlays are being prepared to come out with a predictive map for erosion prone areas. All this is going to be translated into a GIS (Geographic Information System). Furthermore, a set of sustainable indicators was prepared. For this purpose baseline data was prepared and this includes not only physical aspects but also social ones for example, financial compensation to farmers for loss of agricultural land. Moreover even posters were prepared with a pictorial description of processes of soil erosion and now posters showing particular guidelines on rubble walls are being prepared. In addition, brochures are being prepared, which are going to be delivered in secondary and post secondary schools. Other information both on ecosystems and desertification is made accessible from the Environment Protection Department's website ([www.environment.gov.mt](http://www.environment.gov.mt)) and mainly there one can find several reports and publications and also the legislation governing the issues.

**Research and Technologies:** A lot of research is being done thanks to the CAMP project. And as regards the technologies the FAO guidelines on technologies are being followed.

**Financing:** The main financing comes from the national budget. There is also financing from MAP.

**Cooperation:** There is cooperation with: MAP; FAO; the international Center for Advanced Mediterranean Agronomic Studies (CIHEAM); and finally with the Secretariat of UNCCD (United Nations Convention for Combating Desertification).

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## **CHAPTER 13: MANAGING FRAGILE ECOSYSTEMS: SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT**

**Decision-Making:** No information available.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## CHAPTER 14: PROMOTING SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries is responsible for making decisions on this matter. The main co-ordination lies with the Department of Policy and Planning which monitors, programs and plans agricultural issues like the drawing up of reports such as “ An Integrated Development Programme for Agriculture and Fisheries on the Maltese Islands: Horizon 2010 - A National Pact on an intergenerational heritage”.

The Department works with: the Departments of Agriculture; of Veterinary services; and of Fisheries and Aquaculture whose policy directions are regulated by a fairly comprehensive framework of laws and regulations. These laws and regulations in principle conform with Agenda 21 principles, and they fall under the responsibility of the Ministry for Agriculture. Amongst these are: the Agricultural and Fishing Industries (Financial Assistance) Act; the Agricultural Produce (Export) Ordinance; Agricultural Returns Ordinance; Animal Food and Feeding Stuffs Act; Animals (Control of Importation) Ordinance; Fertile Soil (Preservation) Act; Animal Welfare Act; Veterinary Service Ordinance; and at the moment there is also a Bill in Parliament on the new Veterinary Service Act.

The Department also participates with other major groups at an international level, for example participation in the Conference of a multi functional character of land and agriculture, which was held in Maastricht Netherlands in September 1999. Besides that the Department has also participated in two conferences one held in Norway in July 2000 and the second one held in Mauritius in May 2001 whereby the importance of the principles of Agenda 21 were taken into consideration especially the issue of trade liberalization, which also needs to be addressed in the international agricultural trade negotiations at WTO. Furthermore, as a member of FAO Malta has participated in the World Food Summit 1996 and has labeled regularly its plans of action in conformity with the Summit goals. The Department is also gradually building up an interface of NGOs.

**Programmes and Projects:** Programming for Maltese agriculture and fisheries is done in a multi dimensional approach, whereby the economic, social, environmental, and sustainability dimensions are all taken into consideration. This approach conditions all projects and programmes in the economy of cropping and agriculture, the economy of livestock and the economy of marketing, distribution and processing.

**Status:** The Rio principles are now embedded guidelines to promote sustainable agricultural development as well as, for the conservation and management of fisheries resources policies in our country. In line with this division the Ministry is in the process of commissioning the drafting of a rural division programme. Such initiatives present certain challenges, which require various kinds of resources that themselves may present certain constraints in the implementation of such a programme.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** A pragmatic approach to concerns deriving from capacity building, education, training, awareness raising and communications will be part of the rural division programme. Furthermore, lectures and courses on the topic are organized by the Institute of Agriculture at University and the College of Agriculture, which forms part of the Agriculture Department. Then there is also the issuing of monthly pamphlets and posters, which are distributed in schools and in other public places. Together with various talks held on local TV and radio stations. Furthermore the Department of Agriculture has also its web page ([http://www.ministry\\_agri\\_fisheries.asp](http://www.ministry_agri_fisheries.asp)) with a lot of relevant information on the matter. Both the Ministry and Department have a facilitator role towards stakeholder in agriculture and fisheries.

**Information:** A report has been prepared entitled “ An integrated development programme for agriculture and fisheries on the Maltese Islands: Horizon 2010 - National Pact on an intergenerational heritage”.

**Research and Technologies:** The Department of Agriculture and Fisheries has a research and development center that undertakes research activities particularly in water, soils and cropping. It has also a micro propagation center. Even the fisheries have a research institute.

**Financing:** There is an annual allocation in the financial estimates of Malta. For certain products co-operation arrangements may assist ad hoc profits and programs.

**Cooperation:** The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries benefits under the 5<sup>h</sup> Financial Protocol between Malta and EU. Furthermore, there is co-operation between the Department of Agriculture and the EC LIFE Commission to launch the LIFE project MALSIS (Maltese Soil Information System) in Malta. In fact if this project is approved for funding it is scheduled to start next January. This project will assist in identifying and implementing sustainable forms of agricultural production that conserve soil resources and improve ground water quality. The establishment of baseline data on the environment is identified as a key objective in the Environmental Action plan, and MALSIS will achieve this for the soils of the Maltese Islands.

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## CHAPTER 15: CONSERVATION OF BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry for the Environment is responsible for decision making on biodiversity. In fact within the Environment Protection Department there is the biodiversity protection unit that has been delegated to the authority to implement, enforce and administer local legislation on the matter. It also follows and implements the various governmental obligations in connection with international obligations which arise from the number of international conventions concerning biodiversity, which Malta has acceded or ratified. As to local legislation there is a number of local regulations issued under the Environment Protection Act 1991. These are:

- L.N. 144 of 1993 - Birds and wild Rabbit (Declaration of Protected Species and Nature Reserves) Regulations, 1993
- L.N. 146 of 1993 - The Protection of Birds and Wild Rabbit Regulations, 1993
- L.N. 19 of 1992 - Trade in Species of Fauna and Flora Regulations, 1992
- L.N. 76 of 1992 - Marine Mammals (Protection) Regulations, 1992
- L.N. 49 of 1993 - Flora and Fauna Protection Regulations, 1993
- L.N. 12 of 2001 - Trees and Woodlands (Protection) Regulations, 2001

This Department and mainly the biodiversity protection unit also co-ordinates with other departments, mainly: the agricultural department; the customs; the veterinary department; the EU directorate under the aegis of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and of the Planning Authority. It also works and consults with various NGOs interested on the matter.

**Programmes and Projects:** As to programmes and projects, the biodiversity unit has the following programmes:

- Conservation or eradication plans of threatened or alien species respectively.
- Biodiversity Monitoring Programme involving monitoring of important sites and species.
- Compilation of national biodiversity study.
- Lagging of Marine Turtles.

Together with these one has to note that officers within this unit participate in the international fora and workshops.

**Status:** Implementation and enforcement of the various regulations on the topic is a challenge to this country. But the Environment Protection Department has a section of inspectorate attached to the biodiversity protection unit. Their function is to inspect upon protected species and most of the time they are called to act as court expertise when cases on the matter arise.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** There are plans to increase technical officers and environment inspectors to cope with the work. As regards to education, various seminars are organized throughout the year and afterwards there will be the publication of the seminar proceedings and these are accessible to the public. Furthermore, printing of educational material on biodiversity is also on the annual agenda of the Environment Protection Department, like books, booklets, posters, stickers etc. and occasional public talks and lectures. There was also a diploma course in environmental science, which was sponsored by the Environment Protection Department. Finally, the Environment Protection Department also makes occasional appearance on television and participates also on radio programmes related to this subject in particular.

**Information:** The Environment Protection Department has its own website with the address [www.environment.gov.mt](http://www.environment.gov.mt) and there one can find several reports and publications and also the legislation governing the issue of biodiversity. Furthermore, mapping and remote sensing is in its initial stages of planning.

**Research and Technologies:** This issue does not apply to the country.

**Financing:** Financing mainly comes from the national budget and sometimes there is third party funding.

**Cooperation:** Given the fact that Malta has acceded or ratified a number of international conventions related to biological diversity which are the RAMSAR, CITES, BERN, CBD, BONN and some of its agreements. In this connection this means that Malta co-operates with other member states of these conventions in order to honor its obligations arising from these international instruments.

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## **CHAPTERS 16 AND 34: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF BIOTECHNOLOGY AND TRANSFER OF ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND TECHNOLOGY, COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING**

**Decision-Making:** The Competent Authority to decide on biotechnology mainly genetically modified organisms is the Environment Protection Department under the aegis of the Ministry for the Environment. It is good to note from the outset that the University Department of bio-medical sciences is still at research stage, but we adopt technological standards, which are developed abroad. Till now, there is no legislation regulating the issue, however new regulations in conformity with the *acquis communautaire* will be drafted and will enter into force by mid June 2002. These regulations will regulate the use, deliberate release into the environment and placing on the market of GMOs (Genetically Modified Organisms).

**Programmes and Projects:** A study on the present situation with respect to GMOs in Malta has been commissioned and finalized by the Environment Protection Department in February 2001. Furthermore, Environment Protection Department will soon engage in a number of consultants and professional staff to implement the above mentioned regulations.

**Status:** At the moment a lot of work is being done to engage consultants and professional staff on this subject. Actually the main challenge lies in the fact that this subject is new for our island, as well as there are certain size constraints.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** At the moment there are applications open for professional staff to be engaged. Moreover training is envisaged as part of the duties of staff.

**Information:** A report done in February 2001 was forwarded to the Malta EU Screening and Advisory Committee (MEUSAC). Practically this report was based on the several preparations, which the responsible governmental entities are doing on the matter. Furthermore, presentation of this report and of its results was done in a public seminar.

**Research and Technologies:** At the moment, any research is carried out at University at the Laboratory of Molecular Genetics.

**Financing:** Financing is granted from the national budget.

**Cooperation:** A bio-safety coordinating committee will be set up via the new Environment Protection Act, and will be administered by the Environment Protection Department, and will comprise of members from: the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries; the Ministry of Social Policy (from the Occupational Health and Safety Authority); a non-governmental organization; a representative of the scientific committee; and another from the Department of Public Health. The scientific representative will be representing a scientific Advisory Committee, which will help on scientific matters that arise in view of the above mentioned regulations. This subject of genetically modified organizations will involve the co-operation of various departments, which will have to be consulted on scientific issues.

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## **CHAPTER 17: PROTECTION OF THE OCEANS, ALL KINDS OF SEAS, INCLUDING ENCLOSED AND SEMI-ENCLOSED SEAS, AND COASTAL AREAS AND THE PROTECTION, RATIONAL USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR LIVING RESOURCES.**

**Decision-Making:** The main stakeholders on the marine environment are: the Environment Protection Department; the Malta Maritime Authority; and the Planning Authority. In fact development planning and control over land and sea is the remit of the Planning Authority. Such power is conferred to it through the Development Planning Act whereas the Malta Maritime Authority is responsible for all maritime activities. This authority was set up by means of Act XVII of 1991 (The Maritime Authority Act). And the mandate of the Malta Maritime Authority includes the responsibility for the running and upkeep of the ports in Malta and their approaches as well as to provide any necessary facilities and services to that effect. It is also responsible for all work relating to ports and to regulate and control merchant shipping. Then there is also the Ministry for the Environment, which under the Environment Protection Act is responsible to control and to prohibit any discharges into the sea of any substance of whatever nature from land, air, ship, platform or craft. Under the Environment Protection Act there, is a number of subsidiary legislation, which mainly regulates living resources connected with the marine environment, and there are others, which regulate coastal areas. In fact as regards coastal management there are the Filfla Nature Reserve Act of 1988; the Fungus Rock (IL-Gebla ta' General) Nature Reserve regulations (LN 22/92); the Selmunett (St. Paul's Islands) Nature Reserve regulations 1993 (LN 25/93); and the Birds and Wild Rabbit (Declaration of protected species and nature reserves) regulations 1993 (LN 144 of 1993). Then there is also the Reptiles (Protection) regulations 1992 (LN76 of 1992); the Marine Mammals Protection Regulations of 1992 (LN77 of 1992); the Flora and Fauna Protection Regulations of 1993 (LN 49 of 1993); and finally LN 19 of 1992 referred to as Trade in Species of Fauna and Flora regulations. This latter legal notice enabled Malta to transform into national legislation its obligations under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES). There is the Oil Pollution Civil Liability and Compensation Act, which provides for Malta's accession to the 1969 convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage and the 1971 Convention for the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage (IOPC Fund). This Act also appropriately transforms into municipal legislation the provisions of the 1969 convention and its Protocol, such that the courts can enforce the international legal obligations of the convention as part of the law of the land.

Together with these laws and regulations there are a number of plans and programs such as the coastal area management program (CAMP), which is taking place in collaboration with Priority Actions Programme/ Regional Activity Center (PAP/RAC). Furthermore, in 1993 the government of Malta requested that assistance of the Regional Activity Center for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA) of the United Nations environment Program Mediterranean Action Plan in establishing marine protected areas in the Maltese Islands. In 1994 RAC/SPA presented its findings and proposals in two reports, one concerned with scientific aspects and the other with legal aspects. Now more co-ordination with this center is being carried out to set out Action Plans for marine vegetation, the protection of turtles, protection of the monk seal, which is already protected by our legislation, and for the protection of cetaceans in the Mediterranean. Apart from government agencies, even NGOs participate in marine and coastal management, like for example Nature Trust and the GAIA Foundation.

**Programmes and Projects:** There are a number of programs and projects, which have been agreed upon between the Environment Protection Department and international or regional organizations. For example, as already mentioned, there is the CAMP Project in collaboration with PAP/RAC where a number of stakeholders have joined together to learn and take action for coastal management. As part of CAMP, marine conservation areas will also be declared in the near future. Then there are other programs and action plans to be carried out, such as: action plans for the conservation of threatened; rare; or important species; and action plans for the eradication or control of invasive and/or alien species. There is also a draft action plan for the conservation of marine vegetation in the Maltese Islands and another action plan for the protection concerning marine turtle landings in Maltese islands.

**Status:** Notable progress has been achieved in this field. In fact there are a number of laws and regulations on the matter. There is also a lot of assistance from international and regional organizations. This assistance is both financial and provision of experts to train our officers to organize several action plans which later on will be

implemented through policy making. Sometimes Malta has financial constraints and the country is not able to carry out certain studies. In addition, implementation and enforcement on the various regulations on the topic is a challenge to this country.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** The Biodiversity Unit, which is a unit within the Environment Protection Department, issues several publications on the topic like books, booklets, posters, stickers etc. Also public talks and seminars are on the agenda.

**Information:** At the moment mapping of marine habitats is taking place. And mapping of the North West of Malta has also been prepared as part of the CAMP project. The country has a plan to set up a database in collaboration with MCSDD, and also to make up an inventory of marine species. Other information on this topic may be obtained from the Environment Protection Department's website on [www.environment.gov.mt](http://www.environment.gov.mt).

**Research and Technologies:** A lot of research is being done especially on coastal management thanks to the CAMP project. And as regards the technologies the FAO guidelines on technologies are being followed.

**Financing:** The main financing comes from the national budget but there is also financing from MAP.

**Cooperation:** There is co-operation with RAC/SPA, PAP/RAC, and all agencies under MAP. There is also co-operation with MCSDD. And we collaborate also with the Department of Environment, Transport and Regions (DETR). There is also collaboration with the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Malta is party to most environment conventions concerning the topic, such as the MARPOL and the London Dumping Convention, the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols and the Law of the Sea Convention. Apart from that Malta hosts the regional marine pollution Emergency Response Center for the Mediterranean Sea (PEMPEC) and the International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) both partly financed by International Maritime Organization.

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## **CHAPTER 18: PROTECTION OF THE QUALITY AND SUPPLY OF FRESHWATER RESOURCES: APPLICATION OF INTEGRATED APPROACHES TO THE DEVELOPMENT, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF WATER RESOURCES**

**Decision-Making:** Malta's legislation on the subject is very limited, as Malta has no fresh-water resources. There are a few perennial springs, but even these sometimes dry up in the hot summer months. Groundwater is extracted for drinking and agricultural purposes but nowadays farmers also use water from the sewage treatment plant whilst reverse osmosis plants located around the islands mainly produce drinking water. About 30 per cent of Malta's energy bill is devoted to the production of drinking water.

The Food, Drugs and Drinking Water Act<sup>2</sup> prohibits the contamination or pollution of any source of drinking water, in the preparation of food for human consumption, or in the growing of crops for use as food for human consumption. The Superintendent of Public Health may take samples of such water and request in writing that the occupier of the premises, of which the source of water supply forms a part, shall carry out the necessary works to remedy and defects that cause or are likely to cause pollution. If the occupier does not abide by such request, the Health superintendent is to report the fact to the commissioner of Police, who shall summon the occupier to appear before the Court of magistrates of Judicial Police and the court may then order the closing down, or cutting off, of the water supply. If the occupier still fails to abide by the court order, the Health Superintendent shall be authorized to intervene and carry out the necessary works at the expense of the defendant.

The Code of Police Laws, under Section 151, lays down that any person shall avoid causing: "through his negligence any rubbish, mud or other noxious or offensive matter to enter into any fountain, aqueduct or any other place used for the preservation of public water or any putrid water or other offensive matter to run into a public water source or in any other thing whereby public water is rendered foul or unwholesome".

The Code of Police Laws prohibits any person from throwing or negligently allowing flowing any rubbish or any polluted or dirty water, or any other offensive matter, into the public waste-water pit. The Water Services Corporation Act establishes the Water Services Corporation, which is responsible for the management of waste water and water supply and hence the resources of fresh water on the islands<sup>3</sup>.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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<sup>2</sup> Chapter 231 of Laws of Malta, as amended by Acts XI of 1977, XIII of 1978, I of 1979, XIII of 1983 and X of 1986.

<sup>3</sup> Information obtained from 'Malta' by Dr Simone Borg 2001, Kluwer Law International, Environmental Law-Suppl. 33 (August 2001)

## **CHAPTER 19: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF TOXIC CHEMICALS, INCLUDING PREVENTION OF ILLEGAL INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC IN TOXIC AND DANGEROUS PRODUCTS**

**Decision-Making:** Ministry for Environment is responsible for making the decisions for the environmentally sound management of Toxic Chemicals. This is done through the set up of the chemical section of the Pollution Control Co-ordination Unit (PCCU). This section addresses 2 important aspects namely: (i) The compartmentalization of certain eco-Toxic substances in the environment; and (ii) the potential uses that result from the storage or manufacture of certain chemicals that are harmful to the environment.

Other key players on the matter and with whom there is continuous co-ordination include: the Malta resources authority which regulates resources relating to water, energy and mineral resources; the Health Division; the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries (MAF) under which the Pesticide Advisory Board is set up and where pesticide registration is performed; and also the Malta Standards Authority whose functions include the making, adopting and publishing of standards, in relation to any class, category or type of products and/or services as well as activities relating to risk assessment. In addition there are: the Occupational Health and Safety Unit as the organization responsible for ensuring a safe and healthy environment for workers; the Civil Protection Department as the organization responsible for preventing and investigating the effects of accidents; the Ministry of Economic Services; and the Malta national Laboratories as the organization that to date has been identified as being responsible to carry out all government laboratory testing requirements.

As regards to legislation on this issue, a new Environment Protection Act was brought into force in September 2001. Under this Act a number of regulations, which go in line with European Union Directives, have been adopted or are being transposed according to the terms of the *Acquis Communautaire*. Apart from the Environment Protection Act, there are other national laws like: the Civil Protection Act; the Occupational Health and Safety Authority Act; the Malta Resources Authority Act; the Development Planning Act; the Product Safety Act; Legal Notice 133 of 1995 on the import and export of Ozone Depleting Substances; and the Pesticides Control Act.

Now, it is being proposed that there should be a committee of stakeholders with the aim to achieve a holistic approach whilst ensuring the total involvement of the main key players. Furthermore, it was also proposed that there should be the set up of a secretariat, which will consist of a new entity reporting to the Director of the Environment Protection Department. The secretariat should be responsible for coordinating all those activities, which are deemed to be of a 'horizontal' nature and which have to be coordinated amongst the various sections within the Environment Protection Department. Moreover, the Secretariat should also be responsible for serving the input of other stake holders in the consultation process that is envisaged for issuing of permits for EMAs, Seveso and IPPC as well as in the eventual co-ordination of the EIA process.

**Programmes and Projects:** The Environment Protection Department is currently evaluating research programs on POPs.

**Status:** All chemicals required clearance upon importation. Through the current process of transition from the importation clearance towards a PIC system (the Prior Informed Consent), Malta is evaluating the appropriate methodologies to be used. The formation of the Chemical Coordinating Center within the Malta Standards Authority will enable all related authorities to have access to one national chemical database and guarantee public information. The Authority will also be coordinating the work of a scientific committee on chemicals, which will be given the responsibility of carrying out risk assessments.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** There is Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) Report on the Environment Protection Department's role on Chemicals. Environmental science is on the national curriculum and is taught at post secondary level. Furthermore leaflets, television and radio programmes concerning the subject are prepared. Since a lot of environment regulations are being adopted, as well as international conventions and protocols on the matter are being signed by our country, the chemical's section has to increase the number of its staff to comply with the various duties like sampling, compliance certification, research and reporting

which these legislative tools require. Together with these one has to include the committee of stake holders and a secretariat, which will co-ordinate with other key players on the matter and at the same, be answerable to the Director of the Environment Protection Department.

**Information:** The Environment Protection Department's website may be considered as a source of information ICOD and University of Malta run various programmes as a tool for Coastal Zone Management and Pollution Control. Planning Authority is also involved in using aerial monitoring for such.

**Research and Technologies:** Technical Officers from the Environment Protection Department and also from other concerned departments carry out research studies and issue reports on the subject. These will help in the drafting of required legislation to control the illegal use of toxic chemicals.

**Financing:** Most of the financing comes from the national budget.

**Cooperation:** Malta is a party to a number of conventions on the matter and they include: the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (POPs); the Helsinki Convention on Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents; the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent (PIC) Procedure for certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; the Vienna Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer; and the 1987 Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer.

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## CHAPTERS 20 TO 22: ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND MANAGEMENT OF HAZARDOUS, SOLID AND RADIOACTIVE WASTES

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry for the Environment (MOE) is responsible for the environmentally sound management of hazardous, solid and radioactive wastes. The MOE approved a “Solid Waste Management Plan for Malta” in 2000 and a “Solid Waste Management Strategy for the Maltese Islands” in 2001 (Strategy). The Strategy is the guide and blueprint of how waste will be managed in order to meet Malta’s objectives for the next 20 years. A Project Team, which will report directly to an Inter-Ministerial Steering Group, is being established in order to, take in hand the implementation of the Strategy and ensure that the necessary treatment, disposal and other facilities are established. This Project Team will also be responsible to see that the various other requirements of the Strategy, whether of a policy, legislative, institutional, organizational, economic, financial, technical or operative nature, and others, as contemplated in the Strategy, are put in place and functioning.

With regard radioactive waste, co-ordination will shortly be transferred to an independent radiation protection board that will be responsible for all issues connected with the use of radioactive materials. Furthermore legislation, plans and policies are being drafted in connection with recent membership to the IAEA and within the process of harmonization with the EU *Acquis*. Major groups involved in this issue are the Environment Protection Department, the Occupational Health and Safety Authority and the Public Health Department and the Civil Aviation Authority.

**Programmes and Projects:** The Government intends to develop, during the next three years, specialised facilities for the treatment of bio hazardous waste, solid abattoir wastes, dewatered sewage sludge, packaging waste, used tyres, end-of life vehicles, and electrical and electronic waste. Three new landfills for non-hazardous, hazardous and inert waste respectively shall be established. Having established such new landfills, the current landfills at Magtab and Qortin will be closed down and rehabilitated. Sant’Antnin Waste Treatment Plant will be upgraded and a waste treatment station will be established in Gozo in order to transfer non-inert wastes from Gozo to Malta for eventual recovery/treatment or final disposal. A national system for the collection, interim storage, pre-treatment, export and/or final disposal of hazardous wastes shall be set up.

**Status:** During 1995 it was estimated that we produced around 1,496,000 tonnes of solid waste, made up of 127,000 tonnes of Municipal Solid Waste (MSW), 139,000 tonnes of Industrial Waste, and around 1,230,000 tonnes of Construction and Demolition (C&D) Waste. Although these were estimated amounts, as no weighbridges were as yet installed at any of the disposal sites, these amounts represent a fair assessment. As regard radioactive waste Malta is in the process of acquiring expertise to set up the required infrastructure. At the moment considerable progress is being achieved through the assistance of IAEA.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** The Government intends to develop and implement a programme for on-going communications with all stakeholders over the life of the Strategy. Priority and greater prominence will also be given to waste management issues in educational curriculum and programmes. As regards radioactive wastes, at the moment we are in the preparatory stage of getting prepared and of launching educational programmes so that we will have expertise on the matter.

**Information:** There are currently insufficient or inadequate data and information about some waste streams, waste producers, carriers and facilities. A national waste management information system shall be established for data storage, processing and retrieval supported by integrated systems and procedures for data gathering, verification and reporting. As regard radioactive waste there is no information available to the public, as yet although steps are being taken to collect such information, and make it available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available

**Financing:** The intention of the MOE is that the new systems and facilities, for which government will be responsible for providing or arranging, will be financed through one or more ‘Build-Own-Operate-Transfer’ (BOOT) contracts. As regards radioactive waste, it is being financed from national funds, and from co-operation

within agencies such as the IAEA and other bilateral agreements. It is expected that the provision and operation of other specialized waste management systems and facilities will be financed directly by the private sector in accordance with the respective producer responsibility agreements

**Cooperation:** Malta is a member of the European Environment Agency.

Malta is Party to the:

- The Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal
- The Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution and its Protocols
- The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, and
- The Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter and its Protocols.

And as regards radioactive wastes Malta is co-operating with other countries to ensure the safe management of radioactive materials and is in the process of ratifying the following IAEA conventions:

- Agreement of the Privileges and Immunities of the IAEA
- Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material
- Joint Protocol relating to the application of the Vienna Convention and the Paris Convention
- Second Agreement to extend the 1987 Regional Cooperative Agreement for Research, Development and Training related to Nuclear Science and Technology
- Protocol to amend the Vienna Convention on Civil liability for Nuclear Damage
- Convention on Nuclear Safety
- Joint Convention on the Safety of Spent Fuel Management and on the Safety of Radioactive Waste Management
- Vienna convention on Civil Liability for Nuclear Damage and Optional Protocol Concerning the Compulsory Settlement of Disputes
- Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident
- Convention on Assistance in the Case of a Nuclear Accident or Radiological Emergency
- Protocol additional to the Agreement between Malta and the application of Safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (IAEA 55).

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## CHAPTERS 24 TO 32: STRENGTHENING THE ROLE OF MAJOR GROUPS

**Women:** To be represented in the National Commission for Sustainable Development by the National Council of Women/Commission for the Advancement of Women.

**Children and youth:** Children and youth will be represented on the Commission for Sustainable Development. Environmental studies form part of the national curriculum at the first and second level. Whilst at the tertiary level a number of courses include credit units on environmental studies.

**Indigenous people:** This issue does not apply to the country.

**Non-governmental organizations:** Decision-Making: These work and collaborate closely with the Environment Protection Department that provides them with funding. Programmes and Projects: A number of projects in partnership with NGOs are undertaken. A project by the GAIA Foundation (an NGO) provides for the custodianship of two central areas of Malta. There is involvement of NGOs like GAIA Foundation, Bird Life, Nature Trust etc. in committees and they also participate in the Management of Protected Areas.

**Local authorities:** Decision-Making: Close collaboration exists between the Local authorities and the Environment Protection Department. Programmes and Projects: Development Projects by local authorities must also obtain green light from the Planning Authority. In turn, Local Authorities have a very important say in public consultations with EPD/Planning Authority when it comes to discussing development projects, which would affect their localities. The local councils are represented in the NCSD.

**Workers, Trade Unions, Business, Industry, Scientific and Technological Community:** Decision-Making: These are now all represented in the NCSD. Close collaboration in environmental policy making exists with the Scientific and Technological Community. Research and Technologies: A Cleaner Technology Centre housed at the University of Malta is a joint venture between the Malta University Services, the Environment Protection Department and Department for Industry.

**Farmers:** Decision-Making: Farmers are represented in the Development Control Commission of the Planning Authority. This Commission's function is to renew development control permits including enforcement and duties the Planning Authority may wish it to perform.

**General Note:** All these major groups and any citizen of Malta has a legal right under the Environment Protection Act to ask the public sector any information relating to the environment.

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## **CHAPTER 33: FINANCIAL RESOURCES AND MECHANISMS**

**Decision-Making:** No information available.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## **CHAPTER 35: SCIENCE FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**Decision-Making:** By virtue of the Environment Protection Act 2001 the government is to establish a commission for sustainable development, which will be chaired by the Prime Minister. This commission will be responsible for guiding policy makers in all matters related to sustainable development.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## CHAPTER 36: PROMOTING EDUCATION, PUBLIC AWARENESS AND TRAINING

**Decision-Making:** Environment Protection Department within the aegis of the Ministry for the Environment is also responsible to promote education, public awareness and training. In fact there are environmental officers specifically engaged for environment promotion. NGOs do also participate and organize promotional campaigns. In addition, it is good to note that the new Environment Protection Act of 2001 include a provision specifically on promotion and public access to environment reports and information. And this goes in line with the Aarhus Convention, a Convention that Malta intends to ratify in the near future.

**Programmes and Projects:** Mainly education and public awareness is raised through various publications and these are always on the annual agenda of the Environment Protection Department. And mainly such projects are carried out in collaboration with the Education Department.

**Status:** This issue does not apply to the country.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** A number of publications are issued annually. For example the biodiversity protection unit publishes books, which explains scientific terms and technical issues on the matter, in a way that can be understood by the public. Furthermore, they also publish posters of protected species as listed in our local regulations and these posters are available to the public and are also distributed in schools. Leaflets & booklets are published for seminars, and even the reports from the proceedings are made available to the public. Similar publications are issued on the various environmental campaigns, which are organized throughout the year, which involve: the environmental day; earth day; the greenweek fair; the children's world fair; and clean up the world day. During these events exhibitions are organized which include posters and other works prepared by students, and there is also a competition where students present paintings on the environment and the best paintings are chosen and a calendar is published with their pictures. Malta has a club called the Club Xummiemu, and this is the mascot and it goes in schools, television and radio programmes and is also used in television spots on the environment. Furthermore, clean up activities are organized and even here the public is invited to participate especially school children. Apart from this students usually visit our nature reserves. In addition courses are organized every year for teachers. In Malta, the Environment Protection Department emphasizes a lot on promoting environmental issues and on education on the matter to make the Maltese public aware of the importance of the environment and tries to promote sustainable management.

**Information:** Books with environmental information are distributed to public libraries and book sellers. On certain issues we do sometimes issue press releases. The Environment Protection Department has its own website, [www.environment.gov.mt](http://www.environment.gov.mt), full of information on all the publications and activities which are organized throughout the year.

**Research and Technologies:** This issue does not apply to the country.

**Financing:** Financing for these activities, programmes, projects and publications, comes from the national budget, on an annual basis.

**Cooperation:** This issue does not apply to the country.

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**CHAPTER 37: NATIONAL MECHANISMS AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION FOR  
CAPACITY-BUILDING IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.**

**Decision-Making:** No information available.

**Programmes and Projects:** No information available.

**Status:** No information available.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** No information available.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## **CHAPTER 38: INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENTS**

This issue deals mainly with activities undertaken by the UN System.

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## CHAPTER 39: INTERNATIONAL LEGAL INSTRUMENTS AND MECHANISMS

This issue has been covered under **Cooperation** in the various chapters of this Profile. However, you will find below a list treaties in force in Malta:

- 1948 The Convention on the International Maritime Organization, as amended.
- 1949 Agreement For the Establishment of a General Fisheries Council for the Mediterranean.
- 1951 The International Plant Protection Convention.
- 1954 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea by Oil.
- 1958 The Convention on the Continental Shelf.
- 1958 The Convention on the Territorial Sea and the Contiguous Zone.
- 1963 Treaty Banning Nuclear Weapon Tests in The Atmosphere, in Outer Space and Under Water.
- 1969 International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage.
- 1971 The Treaty on the Prohibition on the Emplacement of Nuclear Weapons and Other Weapons of Mass Destruction of the Sea-Bed and the Ocean Floor and in the Subsoil Thereof.
- 1970 International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Oil Pollution Damage.
- 1971 The Convention on Wetlands of International Importance Especially as Waterfowl Habitat.
- 1971 The Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production And Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxic Weapons, and Their Destruction
- 1972 The Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter.
- 1972 The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.
- 1973 The International Convention on the Safety of Life At Sea.
- 1976 The Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution - and the 1996 Amendments to it.
- 1976 The Protocol for the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean by Dumping from Ships and Aircraft.
- 1976 The Protocol concerning Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Oil and Other harmful Substances.
- 1976 The Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea Against Pollution. From Land Based Sources
- 1979 The Convention on European Wild Life and natural Habitats.
- 1979 The Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution.
- 1979 The Protocol to the Convention on Long Range Transboundary Air Pollution on Long-Term Financing of the Co-Operative Programme for Monitoring Evaluation of the Long Range Transmission of Air Pollutants in Europe (EMEP).
- 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.
- 1985 The Vienna Convention For the Protection of The Ozone Layer.
- 1986 The Protocol Concerning Mediterranean Specially Protected Areas.
- 1987 The Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete The Ozone Layer.
- 1989 Basel Convention on the Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.
- 1992 The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
- 1992 Convention on Biological Diversity.
- 1994 United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa.
- 1996 Protocol Concerning Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean.
- 1996 Protocol on the Prevention of Pollution of the Mediterranean Sea by Transboundary Movement of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

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## CHAPTER 40: INFORMATION FOR DECISION-MAKING

**Decision-Making:** The main responsible body is the Central office of statistics in collaboration with relevant departments/agencies like the Environment Protection Department, within the Ministry for Environment, Planning Authority. There is no official set up for co-ordination, but when a decision is taken the different entities consult one another. This is referred to the Cabinet of Ministers that serves as an all coordinating body to ensure harmonization of public policy etc. Authority for information management is delegated to the lowest level of public authority, or local governments through normal information channels with e-mail etc. There is no official set up. To date, there is no legislation. Altogether the circulation of information is much more readily available through Internet via official websites. Major groups involved in decision-making include: Environment Protection Department; Planning Authority; Central Office of Statistics; and the University (Sustainability indicators Malta observatory - SI - MO). Provision of information by the private sector is on a voluntary basis obviously subject to Parliamentary questions. There will be a pilot process of public consultation and education.

**Programmes and Projects:** There is an on going programme improve the official websites, to make them more user friendly. Regulations to set up the machinery to facilitate access to information in a short time upon request by the general public was put in place in 2001. Government is embarking on a project for "electronic government".

**Status:** National publications include: Planning Authority Research Report; and The State of Environment Report. Coastal Zone development, land use in general, waste management, and air quality require most immediate attention in improving the flow and management of information in Malta. For more details see attached Report. Major challenges (institutional, technical, financial, etc) in further enhancement on the use of indicators or developing a national information system for sustainable development are still in an initial stage. Needs exist in the area of Training and Capacity Building and Recruitment of staff.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** There were no major campaigns, but information is made available via Internet. The new Environment Protection Act enables any person to demand information on the state of the environment from any public entity. The public sector is legally bound to supply it within a stipulated limit.

**Information:** No information available.

**Research and Technologies:** No information available.

**Financing:** No information available.

**Cooperation:** No information available.

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## CHAPTER: INDUSTRY

**Decision-Making:** The Ministry of Economic Affairs is responsible for the decision making concerning industry. Under this Ministry, there are other departments, namely: the Commerce Division; and the Department of Trade and Customs which cooperate together in this sector of industry. There is also the Planning Authority, which controls the structural development of industries, and the Ministry for internal affairs, which issues the licensing for the operation of new industries. In addition, there are other non- governmental organizations such as the Malta Federation of Industries and the Malta Chamber of Commerce, which also contribute within this sector. There is also the General Retailers Trade Union, which its main task is to protect small industries, which are very popular in Malta. There is also the Malta Export Corporation (METCO) and the Malta Development Corporation (MDC) and the Institute for the Promotion of Small Enterprises (IPSE). All these three organizations have the role to control various issues like the exportation of industrial products, or the control of the industrial sector, while the latter is a business incubation center to co-ordinate activities of small businesses. And finally there is also the Cleaner Technology Center, which assist industry in finding feasible solution for environmental protection. This center works in close collaboration with the Environment Protection Department. And there is also the Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association.

There is also a number of legislation, which controls this sector, amongst these are: the Industrial Property (protection) Ordinance; the Industrial Relations Act; the Agricultural and Fishing Industries Act; Aids to Industries Ordinance; the Encouragement of New Industries Act; Local Lace Industry Act; the Business Promotion Act; the Fair Trade Act; Intellectual Property Act and the Patents Act; The Malta Development Corporation Act and the Consumer Protection Act; and the Conditions of Employment (Regulation) Act. Together with these there are other legislation especially under the aegis of the Health Department, which controls food and beverages.

**Programmes and Projects:** In the industrial sector a lot is done. In fact there is a series of seminars and conferences, which are organized annually, with the collaboration of the Environment Protection Department, the Cleaner Technology Center and the Federation of Industry. These seminars and conferences have been organized on an annual basis since 1993 and gave tackled various issues such as on waste management strategy, EU legislation concerning environment and industry, and cleaner production as a business proposition. Furthermore, a pilot project was carried out where an environmental auditing on industries was carried out. This was a LIFE project of the EU and practically it included the study of how much pollution is produced from our local industries, the waste which is generated, how much is the energy consumption and what natural resources are used. Apart from this even at the University of Malta at the moment there is an ongoing project on alternative sources of electrical energy produced through the power station.

**Status:** In Malta many industries try to make and introduce both on the production level as well as on the market level environmental production products. But sometimes this is not always possible especially with small/micro industries; this is due to lack of financial and human resources. Furthermore they have lack of technical knowledge, since they cannot afford professional consultancy. And one has to mention that most of the industries in Malta are micro industries mostly run by family members and holding less than ten persons as staff.

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** As regards capacity building and education the Cleaner Technology Center situated in the University of Malta offers optional credit on environmental protection, waste management and the use of resources. Apart from that it also: organizes training seminars for government officials; publishes educative posters and brochures; gives several talks at school; and participates in radio and television talk shows. There is the Chamber of commerce, which organizes training course. And further training courses are organized by the Employment and Training Corporation.

**Information:** University studies have been carried out using remote sensing by satellite to detect marine pollution. And there has also been mapping by aerial photography to detect like for example the development of quarries and agricultural land.

**Research and Technologies:** The Cleaner Technology Center has an on going air monitoring station situated in Goo to monitor air pollution. Then there is also research being carried out by the University laboratory on effects of pollution caused from a land based sources into the marine environment. And there are also under graduate projects to collect information on levels of pollution generated by industry.

**Financing:** Primarily funding comes from general funds as provided for in the annual budget. No specific budget is allocated even though sometimes there is occasional funding from the EU. And now there is funding from the Global Environment Fund which was used to prepare a green house gasses inventory for industry processes as part of the first national concern of climate change.

**Cooperation:** The Cleaner Technology Center also works with other international organizations like UNEP within the Industry and Environment Branch, as well as with the Regional Activity center for cleaner production in Barcelona.

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## CHAPTER: SUSTAINABLE TOURISM

**Decision-Making:** Legal bodies: Ministry of Tourism (policy setting, including finalization of Carrying Capacity Assessment, 2001); Malta Travel and Tourism Services Act established Malta Tourism Authority (MTA) (Sept. 1999); regulations under this Act include Standards for Tourism Services Providers; also some legislative alignment with the *Acquis Communautaire* was carried out in the past few years. Ministry of Tourism and MTA co-operate for the harmonization and the correct implementation of policies. Tourism Development is monitored by the Product Planning and Development Directorate within MTA in conjunction with the Planning Authority (PA), following guidelines set out in the Carrying Capacity Assessment and the Structure Plan (PA) for the Maltese Islands. Malta is also party to the World Tourism Organization (WTO) (especially with regards to the application of International Standards for Classification of Tourism Service Providers); MTA also participates actively within the European Travel Commission (ETC) in matters of marketing and research for European-bound tourism. MTA provides for public-private partnership and co-ownership through its Executive set-up. Human Resource training for the industry is catered for by the Institute of Tourism Studies (ITS) and the University of Malta, as well as by the Human Resource and Support Services Directorate within MTA. MTA has been implementing a Strategic Plan for the industry since its launch in September 1999. A new strategic plan is in its final stage of completion and will cover the period 2002-2004. As regards regionality, the Ministry of Tourism and MTA co-operate actively with the Ministry for Gozo and the Gozo Tourism Association. In all areas, planning and execution of projects are carried out in conjunction with the tourism industry operators, interested organizations, NGOs, and local authorities.

**Programmes and Projects:** The Carrying Capacity Assessment project carried out by the Ministry of Tourism seeks to establish a sustainability development scenario for tourism for the Maltese Islands, focusing on controlled growth for the industry and better management of local bed stock. It also provides guidelines for the monitoring of tourism impact on the social, economic and environmental scenarios.

**Status:** Tourism accounts for 24% of Gross National Product (GNP) and for 27% of full-time equivalent employment (FTE) in the Maltese Islands; this demonstrates tourism's major role in the (actual and potential) social economic and environmental scenarios in Malta, putting up pressure due to dependence, constraints and vulnerability

**Capacity-Building, Education, Training and Awareness-Raising:** Tourism accounts for 27% of FTE employment. Vocational education is provided by the ITS, while the Ministry of Tourism provides for adult education in the field of tourist guides. There exists a need for a more focused approach towards education and professional training in sustainable tourism and site-management. MTA already participates in the EU Leonardo programme with an exchange agreement for employees in the catering industry. MTA also carries out awareness campaigns on the local media and educational campaigns in local schools. Within the Faculty of Economics, Management and Accountancy (FEMA) at the University of Malta, a new Tourism Degree has been launched in October 2001.

**Information:** Basic data on tourism is provided by the National Statistics Office (arrivals, guest-nights, etc.). Since 2001, MTA, through its Strategic Planning and Research Division, has been furnishing the industry with a Tourism Digest, containing updates on statistics as well as research findings from the various studies conducted by the Authority. The Tourism Digest is available against subscription, with reduced rates for students. MTA was also responsible for the carrying out of a study entitled "The Economic Impact of Tourism in Malta" (2000). The Ministry of Tourism commissioned the Carrying Capacity Assessment, while the Planning Authority publishes updates of its site-plans for tourism related areas. The Malta Hotels and Restaurants Association (MHRA) publishes a quarterly sectoral report on hotel performance. The Central Bank of Malta Quarterly Reviews also feature tourism-related issues regularly.

**Research and Technologies:** Tourism related research is mainly conducted by the Strategic Planning and Research Division within MTA. The Planning Authority publishes regularly surveys on tourism development. The Ministry

of Tourism has also commissioned two studies on the impact of EU membership on the tourism sector, particularly on Tourist Guides and on SMEs.

**Financing:** MTA is financed mainly from the national budget, with smaller contributions supplied by Air Malta and the private sector. National budget also accounts for all the financing of the Ministry of Tourism and the Institute of Tourism Studies.

**Cooperation:** Malta is party to several bilateral agreements. It is also an active participant in the European Travel Commission (ETC), the World Tourism Organization (WTO) and the UN PAPRAC programme.

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