

Malta – SD Priorities

Source document: A Sustainable Development Strategy for the Maltese Islands 2007-2016 (2006)

1. Managing the Environment and Resources (p. 15)

1.1. Air Quality and Climate Change (p. 15)

- 1.1.1. Promote the adoption of new technologies, including mandating use of catalytic converters, to affect significant cut-backs in vehicle emissions. (p. 17)
 - 1.1.2. Take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through an energy policy which seeks to promote environmental protection, competitiveness and security of supplies, and as a result decouple the rate of growth of energy demand from economic growth. (p. 17)
 - 1.1.3. Take remedial action to control emissions of air pollutants (ambient levels of particulate matter, sulphur dioxide, carbon monoxide, benzene, lead, ozone, heavy metals and nitrogen oxides) and achieve compliance with European standards. (p. 17)
 - 1.1.4. Encourage people to make use of public transport or to adopt car-pooling practices in order to reduce vehicle emissions. (p. 17)
 - 1.1.5. Introduce smaller buses on certain public transport routes. (p. 17)
 - 1.1.6. Require the construction industry to reduce generation of fine dust particles. (p. 17)
 - 1.1.7. Continue to monitor landfills for air pollution and take remedial action as required. (p. 17)
 - 1.1.8. Continue to monitor transboundary pollution and take remedial action as required. (p. 17)
 - 1.1.9. Develop a hazard map for coastal areas prone to erosion and flooding. (p. 17)
 - 1.1.10. Take action to reduce Malta's vulnerability to Climate Change. (p. 17)
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1.2. Energy-efficiency and Renewable Energy Resources (p. 17)

- 1.2.1. Adopt a national energy policy that seeks to improve efficiency in electricity generation and to promote a secure, competitively priced, and environmentally sound energy supply, (p. 18)
 - 1.2.2. Put in place an integrated approach, supported by a nationwide educational campaign, to promote energy efficiency and conservation by users. (p. 18)
 - 1.2.3. Carry out an energy audit of street lighting and propose measures to promote efficiency in lighting (p. 18)
 - 1.2.4. Step up funding for research to improve knowledge on local materials and conditions in building for energy efficiency and in the use of renewable energy sources (p. 18)
 - 1.2.5. Adopt building regulations that would include design requirements relating to thermal efficiency. (p. 18)
 - 1.2.6. Direct more development permit applicants to adopt energy efficiency measures. (p. 18)
 - 1.2.7. Promote the introduction and use of renewable energy sources through support mechanisms and other appropriate measures. (p. 18)
 - 1.2.8. Promote energy audits and energy-efficiency improvements in commercial and industrial establishments. (p. 18)
 - 1.2.9. Heighten water conservation methods to reduce dependency on reverse osmosis plants. (p. 18)
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1.3. Freshwater (p. 18)

- 1.3.1. Adopt a policy with the aim of ensuring the utilisation of the nation's water resources in a manner that is environmentally and economically sustainable. (p. 20)

- 1.3.2. Allow the natural biodiversity of surface water eco-systems to be sustained and to flourish, and achieve good ecological status for inland surface waters by 2015 in line with the Water Framework Directive. *(p. 20)*
 - 1.3.3. Ensure a reliable and good-quality supply of potable water in accordance with international water quality standards. *(p. 20)*
 - 1.3.4. Reduce and prevent further pollution of waters with the aim of achieving good status of all water bodies by 2015 in line with the Water Framework Directive. *(p. 20)*
 - 1.3.5. Establish and operate comprehensive monitoring networks for all water bodies in the Maltese Islands in order to reliably assess the achievement of 'good status' objectives in these bodies. *(p. 20)*
 - 1.3.6. Encourage initiatives for the adoption of water efficiency and conservation measures. *(p. 20)*
 - 1.3.7. Introduce effective catchment management and design roads so as to maximise the channelling of water towards reservoirs. *(p. 20)*
 - 1.3.8. Improve public awareness on the environmental, social and economic value of water. *(p. 20)*
 - 1.3.9. Strengthen and enforce regulatory measures with regard to illegal abstraction. *(p. 20)*
 - 1.3.10. Encourage the recycling of non-potable sources of water for secondary use. *(p. 20)*
 - 1.3.11. Assess projects that require large quantities of water in order to ascertain that they do not unduly create water supply shortages. *(p. 20)*
 - 1.3.12. Optimise the use of second-class water particularly in those sectors that make heavy use of water. *(p. 20)*
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1.4. Biodiversity *(p. 20)*

- 1.4.1. Monitor and protect all rare and/or threatened endemic species and their habitats, as well as other locally occurring species of international importance, and take active measures for their conservation and restoration. *(p. 23)*
 - 1.4.2. Designate additional habitats for protection (including marine areas), based on sound scientific information, in order to protect these habitats from incompatible development. *(p. 23)*
 - 1.4.3. Draw up and implement the required management plans for Special Areas of Conservation. *(p. 23)*
 - 1.4.4. Draw up a National Biodiversity Strategy for Malta based on the aims of the Convention of Biological Diversity. *(p. 23)*
 - 1.4.5. Fulfil all obligations under existing international environmental treaties concerning biodiversity and equip local agencies responsible for implementing these treaties with the necessary resources, personnel and administrative machinery to enforce legislation. *(p. 23)*
 - 1.4.6. Set up a nature wardening service and introduce or increase fines for infringement of particular regulations, so as to provide an effective deterrent. *(p. 23)*
 - 1.4.7. Adopt an official policy on the introduction and eradication of alien species (including genetically modified organisms). *(p. 23)*
 - 1.4.8. Promote and fund research to gain a better understanding of local biodiversity, including the establishment and funding of a national inventory/database of biodiversity. *(p. 23)*
 - 1.4.9. Devise schemes to improve awareness on the richness of local biodiversity. *(p. 23)*
 - 1.4.10. Ratify and implement the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. *(p. 23)*
 - 1.4.11. Discourage land reclamation in ecologically sensitive areas and encourage re-use of abandoned fields. *(p. 23)*
 - 1.4.12. Encourage organic farming, thereby reducing use of pesticides. *(p. 23)*
 - 1.4.13. Promote the use of ecological corridors. *(p. 23)*
 - 1.4.14. Promote awareness that biodiversity is an economic resource of value to tourism, and that is enjoyed by tourists and the local population alike. *(p. 23)*
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1.5. Wastes *(p. 23)*

- 1.5.1. Prevent and minimise waste by achieving EU waste-related targets, reviewing Malta's Waste Management Strategy by 2007. *(p. 25)*

- 1.5.2. Establish waste management systems for hazardous (including pharmaceutical) and non-hazardous wastes. (p. 25)
 - 1.5.3. Commission the sewage treatment plants and find ways to use the treated water. (p. 25)
 - 1.5.4. Close all non-compliant incinerators and replace incineration plants in hospitals by non-burn technology. (p. 25)
 - 1.5.5. Introduce economic instruments, such as additional deposit refund schemes, conducive to improved waste management practices. (p. 25)
 - 1.5.6. Increase the number of bring-in sites and introduce additional facilities, such as civic amenity sites, which will help to increase waste separation at source. (p. 25)
 - 1.5.7. Develop facilities for the separate collection of wastes by Local Councils. (p. 25)
 - 1.5.8. Upgrade the present sewerage system to decrease to a minimum the current rates of failure of some coastal pumping stations, as well as of Malta's major sewage outfall at Wied Ghammieg. (p. 25)
 - 1.5.9. Incentivise the construction industry to reduce demolition and construction waste. (p. 25)
 - 1.5.10. Develop a nationwide educational campaign aimed primarily at waste reduction. (p. 25)
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1.6. Marine and Coastal Environment (p. 25)

- 1.6.1. Achieve good ecological status for coastal waters and good chemical status of marine waters by 2015 in compliance with the Water Framework Directive (LN194/2004). (p. 27)
 - 1.6.2. Implement the National Action Plan for the Protection of the Marine Environment from Land-Based Activities including the adoption of its Sectoral Plans, Environmental Quality Standards, Emission Limit Values and Pollution Reduction Programmes for specific marine contaminants. (p. 27)
 - 1.6.3. Rigorously monitor the quality of coastal and marine waters and protect them from pollution so as to render them safe for human health, to satisfy the requirements for human use, both by residents and by visitors, and to allow the natural biodiversity of marine eco-systems and habitats to be sustained and to flourish. (p. 27)
 - 1.6.4. Take steps to improve information regarding the state of the marine environment, and assign more resources to allow for more extensive monitoring programmes. (p. 27)
 - 1.6.5. Develop a framework for policy integration for the coast and adjacent marine environment. (p. 27)
 - 1.6.6. Strengthen and extend a system of marine protected areas. (p. 27)
 - 1.6.7. Enhance capacity-building within government agencies, including management and enforcement personnel. (p. 27)
 - 1.6.8. Ensure that the new Structure Plan and the applicable Local Plans and planning policies comprehensively address the issue of coastal management so that any new coastal development is sustainable. (p. 27)
 - 1.6.9. Take steps to make the coast more accessible to the public. (p. 27)
 - 1.6.10. Allocate environmental wardens specifically for marine and coastal areas. (p. 27)
 - 1.6.11. Enact legislation to ban spearfishing that makes use of underwater equipment. (p. 27)
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1.7. Land Use (p. 28)

- 1.7.1. Adopt measures to protect, maintain and improve the urban and rural environment and, through the planning system, protect the open countryside from uses, particularly residences, which can be more appropriately located in urban areas. (p. 30)
- 1.7.2. Promote renewal incentives to make the best use of the existing urban fabric and reverse urban decline, particularly in historic cores, specifically through strategic economic and social planning which addresses the physical, economic, social and environmental issues in an integrated manner, while encouraging the use of vacant property. (p. 30)
- 1.7.3. Maintain and improve Malta's built heritage and historic resources, wherever possible through the participation of civil society and the private sector. (p. 30)
- 1.7.4. Manage the built environment so as to ensure the best possible quality of life, with minimal risks to human health, and the fostering of the cultural and social identity of our settlements. (p. 30)

- 1.7.5. Promote stewardship of the rural, urban, coastal and marine environment and channel urban development into existing development areas. *(p. 30)*
 - 1.7.6. Revitalise existing town centres, making them more viable, improve the efficiency of use of industrial areas, and upgrade the quality of other employment areas. *(p. 30)*
 - 1.7.7. Ensure closer integration of transport and land use planning so as to increase the use and efficiency of public transport rather than increased reliance on private cars. *(p. 30)*
 - 1.7.8. Promote higher residential densities and mixed uses close to existing town centres and public transport routes so as to reduce the need for travel. *(p. 30)*
 - 1.7.9. Require the construction industry to adopt measures for the sustainable use of stone and resources and reduce noise and dust pollution impacts on residential amenity. *(p. 30)*
 - 1.7.10. Introduce incentives for the re-use of materials retrieved from demolished buildings. *(p. 30)*
 - 1.7.11. Introduce incentives to encourage the use of vacant buildings. *(p. 30)*
 - 1.7.12. Ensure that land reclamation does not take place in environmentally sensitive areas. *(p. 30)*
 - 1.7.13. Devise measures that encourage tourism development to fully respect the environment and promote initiatives that strengthen its synergies with the cultural and environmental sectors. *(p. 30)*
 - 1.7.14. Engage all interested parties within the construction industry in an awareness-raising exercise of the damage caused by construction activities and put in place incentives that promote good practice in the construction industry. *(p. 30)*
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1.8. Promoting a Sustainable Transport System *(p. 30)*

- 1.8.1. Reduce car ownership rates to the EU average by 2014 and Regain the 1995 bus patronage levels (40 million passengers) by 2014. *(p. 32)*
 - 1.8.2. Upgrade public transport and promote its use. *(p. 32)*
 - 1.8.3. Devise methods to reduce over-dependence on private car use and the need to travel, and to encourage more use of public transport, and adopt a car restraint policy to restrict cars in town centres where the impact of traffic and congestion is greatest. *(p. 32)*
 - 1.8.4. Promote more efficient use of parking, introducing maximum parking standards for new developments, especially in employment areas. *(p. 32)*
 - 1.8.5. Enhance enforcement and use the latest technology and appropriate penalties to ensure that offenders do not hinder the strategy. *(p. 32)*
 - 1.8.6. Carry out a detailed study on commuting in Malta to establish critical routes and peak times of traffic and to develop alternative transport alternatives. *(p. 32)*
 - 1.8.7. Adopt a road safety strategy to decrease injuries and fatalities on the roads. *(p. 32)*
 - 1.8.8. Ensure that air transport development is sustained in such a manner that recognises its linkages to local economic and social development are recognised. *(p. 32)*
 - 1.8.9. In the longer term, consider the creation of a national form of fast inland transport that represents an attractive and cost-effective alternative to private car use. *(p. 32)*
 - 1.8.10. Integrate transport policy with other policy areas such as social issues, tourism, employment, health and environmental policies. *(p. 32)*
 - 1.8.11. Organise an educational campaign that informs citizens about the impact of unsustainable transport and about what can be done to promote transport sustainability. *(p. 32)*
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1.9. Natural and Technological Risks *(p. 32)*

- 1.9.1. Explore the use of valley systems for flood relief and water storage within a context of ecological conservation. *(p. 33)*
- 1.9.2. Promote awareness among policy-makers and all the parties concerned of the dramatic short and medium term repercussions on Malta's economy of a major oil spill incident in Malta's territorial waters. *(p. 33)*
- 1.9.3. Ensure that the National Marine Pollution Contingency Plan is readily implementable at all times. *(p. 33)*

- 1.9.4. Put in place further measures to ensure that the operations of the Civil Protection Department fully complement those of the Armed Forces, the Malta Police and the relevant environmental authorities. (p. 33)
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1.10. Leisure and the Environment (p. 33)

- 1.10.1. Implement and fully enforce the new littering regulations. (p. 34)
- 1.10.2. Draw up and implement a policy that addresses the issue of noise pollution within the context of the Noise Directive. (p. 33)
- 1.10.3. Draw up and implement a policy that addresses the issue of light pollution. (p. 33)
- 1.10.4. Draw up and implement a dust-control policy. (p. 33)
- 1.10.5. Adopt a nationwide public footpath policy which delineates paths that the public can use. (p. 33)
- 1.10.6. Take effective action against illegal and abusive practices that hinder the public's access to the countryside and encourage interpretation initiatives that increase public awareness and appreciation of the landscape. (p. 33)

2. Promoting Sustainable Economic Development (p. 35)

- 2.0.1. Adopt policy measures so that the growth of GDP per capita in real terms occurs at a rate which will enable the Maltese economy to converge towards the EU average. (p. 36)
 - 2.0.2. Create employment opportunities to generate income and improve the quality of life of the population, taking into consideration environmental and social impacts, and adopt policy measures so that the ratio of total employment to the working-age population in Malta converges with the EU average and reaches at least 57 per cent by 2010. (p. 36)
 - 2.0.3. Adopt policy measures to increase average labour productivity at a rate of 1 per cent per annum over the EU average by 2010, while attempting to balance wages and productivity, in collaboration with the social partners. (p. 36)
 - 2.0.4. Provide further training and retraining to improve the employability of unemployed persons, a large proportion of whom are unskilled. (p. 36)
 - 2.0.5. Increase investment in human capital, knowledge and innovation efforts, and in the scientific infrastructure in order to step up innovation, research and development, and promote the take-up of innovative measures within the entrepreneurial environment, particularly in terms of resource management systems. (p. 36)
 - 2.0.6. Align educational institutions and training programmes with sectors that are targeted by Malta for further development. (p. 36)
 - 2.0.7. Encourage economic diversification at sector level as well as at enterprise level to reduce the country's vulnerability on specific sector and/or few players. (p. 36)
 - 2.0.8. Improve efficiency in the public sector. (p. 36)
 - 2.0.9. Promote market-oriented policies towards resource allocation based on fair competition considerations, taking into account environmental concerns. (p. 36)
 - 2.0.10. Promote export competitiveness and investment attractiveness through appropriate policies supported by promotional campaigns. (p. 36)
 - 2.0.11. Consolidate public finances so as to achieve, in the medium term, a balanced budgetary position, net of one-offs and temporary measures, over the business cycle. (p. 36)
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2.1. Promoting Sustainable Consumption and Production Patterns (p. 36)

- 2.1.1. Promote consumption and production patterns that economise on the use of non-renewable resources, minimise waste and pollution, and allow enough time for regeneration of renewable resources. (p. 37)
- 2.1.2. Promote eco-efficiency and attempt to step up productivity in the use of resources. (p. 37)
- 2.1.3. Maintain the level of imports within the bounds of the economy's export capabilities. (p. 37)
- 2.1.4. Encourage sufficient saving for investment to sustain the economic capital stock of future generations. (p. 37)

- 2.1.5. Widen eco-contribution on polluting products that could be substituted by other environment-friendly ones. *(p. 37)*
 - 2.1.6. Review the government procurement system in order to place emphasis on the sustainability aspect of products and services purchased by Government, and green 50 per cent of government expenditure by 2009. *(p. 37)*
 - 2.1.7. Promote registration to the EU Ecolabel scheme, the Eco Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) or ISO 14001. *(p. 37)*
 - 2.1.8. Initiate a nationwide educational campaign targeting consumption sustainability. *(p. 37)*
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2.2. Reliance on Market Forces and Fair Trading *(p. 37)*

- 2.2.1. Further promote international competitiveness by encouraging efficient use of resources through the operation of market mechanisms. *(p. 38)*
 - 2.2.2. Promote foreign direct investment by providing appropriate incentives, taking into account the EU state aid rules. *(p. 38)*
 - 2.2.3. In the case of merit goods such as education and health, take further steps to ensure that these are accessible to those who need them while, at the same time taking steps to control abuse. *(p. 38)*
 - 2.2.4. Further enforce fair competition legislation so as to control abuse arising from market domination and concerted practices, and undertake a campaign to enhance consumer awareness in this regard. *(p. 38)*
 - 2.2.5. When the market mechanism fails to operate, step up the use of economic instruments and valuation techniques in an attempt to internalise costs. *(p. 38)*
 - 2.2.6. Promote a culture of corporate social responsibility by major firms. *(p. 38)*
 - 2.2.7. Ensure that excessive bureaucracy is curtailed in regulatory activities so that avenues for redress are accessed as efficiently and as quickly as possibly. *(p. 38)*
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2.3. Promoting Innovation, Science and Technology *(p. 39)*

- 2.3.1. Improve capacity in government departments and entities by assigning a percentage of the budget of such entities to research and innovation. *(p. 40)*
 - 2.3.2. Encourage transparent mechanisms in public procurement to encourage and reward research and innovation. *(p. 40)*
 - 2.3.3. Encourage business to involve itself and to foster innovation. *(p. 40)*
 - 2.3.4. Improve the dynamics and interactions between researchers, educational institutions and the users of research output. *(p. 40)*
 - 2.3.5. Improve the legal and economic framework for the development of Venture Capital and Public- Private Partnerships, and set up and sustain a National Research Programme as exists in other EU Member States. *(p. 40)*
 - 2.3.6. Maximise use of EU funding for research and development, and promote and fund research to help industry develop innovative products and processes. *(p. 40)*
 - 2.3.7. Phase in an increase in Malta's Government Expenditure on Research and Development to reach 0.75 per cent of GDP by 2010. *(p. 40)*
 - 2.3.8. Strengthen the local Science and Technology base and related capacity through the development of a specific government funding line focused on Environmental Science and Technology and applied Research and Development within the National Research Programme currently run by MCST. *(p. 40)*
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2.4. Sustainable Agriculture, Rural Development and Fishing *(p. 41)*

- 2.4.1. Encourage farmers and fishermen to, as far as possible, achieve financial viability of their enterprises, through improved competitiveness using environmentally sustainable methods. *(p. 42)*
- 2.4.2. Remunerate farmers and fishermen, through correlated EU measures, to compensate for their multifunctional roles, particularly the supply of environmental public goods. *(p. 42)*
- 2.4.3. Assist farmers and fishermen to upgrade and modernise their technology and equipment in an environment where resource sustainability, particularly the provision of water, is assured. *(p. 42)*

- 2.4.4. Implement a monitoring system to assess the extent of pesticide drift in valleys, protected sites and areas of intensive agriculture. This is necessary both for reasons of health risks as well as for establishing the basis for encouraging organic farming. *(p. 42)*
- 2.4.5. Encourage initiatives in agro-tourism and promote the development of authentic local products. *(p. 42)*

2.5. Curbing the Damage of Construction and Quarrying *(p. 42)*

- 2.5.1. Enhance enforcement and monitoring to reduce the destabilising effects on society of construction and quarrying activities. *(p. 43)*
- 2.5.2. Impose short deadlines for finishing buildings so as not to leave structures in 'shell form' for more than a specified number of months. *(p. 43)*
- 2.5.3. Provide incentives for quarry owners to encourage them to bind themselves to implement a restoration plan for the quarry they operate. *(p. 43)*
- 2.5.4. Conserve mineral resources by minimising waste and promoting the reduction and re-use of building material and the proper disposal of building waste in approved sites. *(p. 43)*
- 2.5.5. Provide incentives for the use of lower quality stone and the re-use of stone which has become part of the waste stream. *(p. 43)*
- 2.5.6. Implement regulations on the economic operations of quarries to ensure acceptable environmental impacts, conservation of the resource, safety standards and fair competition in the sector. *(p. 43)*
- 2.5.7. Promote education and training for the persons working in the construction and quarrying sector, to promote improved work and safety practices as well as to foster an understanding of the negative environmental, aesthetic and health impacts of these industries. *(p. 43)*

2.6. Sustainable Manufacturing *(p. 43)*

- 2.6.1. Take further measures to enhance competitiveness in the manufacturing sector, and develop a competitiveness strategy in this regard. *(p. 44)*
- 2.6.2. Focus efforts on key sectors which maximise the use of Malta's core competences and which have an attractive long-term market. *(p. 44)*
- 2.6.3. Encourage participation in the EU Eco-labelling scheme to ensure that products meet the requirements and standards set by the scheme. *(p. 44)*
- 2.6.4. Further promote the usage of environmental management and audit systems such as the EU Eco- Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS) or ISO 14001. *(p. 44)*
- 2.6.5. Enhance existing training schemes and set up new ones to help industry develop and update its expertise on methodologies and technologies relevant to sustainable development, including design and cleaner production technology. *(p. 44)*
- 2.6.6. Set up a technical competitiveness council, comprised of members from the public and private sectors, reporting directly to the MCESD. *(p. 44)*
- 2.6.7. Devise measures aimed at developing clustering potential between local enterprise and foreign direct investors across the value chain. *(p. 44)*
- 2.6.8. Devise measures that develop synergies between clusters to increase competitiveness. *(p. 44)*
- 2.6.9. Provide advice and incentives to assist the manufacturing industry in energy conservation, water recycling and active engagement in research and development of innovation in both products and processes. *(p. 44)*
- 2.6.10. In line with the 6th EU Environment Action Programme, introduce an Integrated Product Policy approach to promote the greening of products and processes through the promotion of intelligent product design that reduces environmental impacts of products from their conception to the end of their useful life. *(p. 44)*
- 2.6.11. Promote the use of ICT as an enabling technology to improve manufacturing businesses through process planning, decision support systems and collaborative design. *(p. 44)*

2.7. Promoting Sustainable Tourism *(p. 45)*

- 2.7.1. Improve the contribution of tourism to the economy by devising schemes to increase per capita expenditure on local content by incoming tourists. *(p. 46)*

- 2.7.2. Channel investment towards resource-efficient segments and to less resource-costly areas (environmentally, economically and socially) areas so as to ensure optimal use of resources. (p. 46)
- 2.7.3. Improve the quality of service offered to tourists and, in general, upgrade Malta's tourism product, thereby delivering value and customer satisfaction. (p. 46)
- 2.7.4. Stabilise summer inflow of tourists below saturation levels and try to redirect any surplus inflows to off-peak periods. (p. 46)
- 2.7.5. Implement programmes to exploit Malta's unique cultural tourist attractions. (p. 46)
- 2.7.6. Improve facilities relating to domestic tourism. (p. 46)
- 2.7.7. Local Councils should take an active role in applying for EU funding for the development of particular projects. (p. 46)

2.8. Linking Infrastructural Needs to Sustainable Development (p. 46)

- 2.8.1. Whenever possible, base physical infrastructure development on qualitative improvements rather than on physical expansion, so as not to put more pressure on the environment. (p. 47)
- 2.8.2. Take advantage of the existing infrastructure rather than duplicate it; if new infrastructure is needed, attention should be given to structures that deliver cross-cutting benefits. (p. 47)
- 2.8.3. Organise guidance schemes for developers and contractors when infrastructural works are to be carried out in sensitive areas (p. 47)
- 2.8.4. Take steps to enforce mitigation measures associated with the permits. (p. 47)
- 2.8.5. Take appropriate measures to ensure that infrastructural developments are in line with adaptation strategies and plans with regard to the possible effects of climate change, including sea level rise. (p. 47)

3. Fostering Sustainable Communities (p. 47)

3.1. Promoting Social Cohesion (p. 47)

- 3.1.1. Reduce the various forms of poverty and social inequality with a view to enhancing the social inclusion of the most disadvantaged and vulnerable persons. (p. 50)
- 3.1.2. Reduce, or at least contain, the current level of 15 per cent of the population at risk of poverty and decrease the ratio of population aged over 65 at risk of poverty from 20 per cent to 15 per cent, by 2010. (p. 50)
- 3.1.3. Recognise older persons as a resource and promote their socio-economic participation and inclusion through adequate and sustainable pensions and access to quality health services. (p. 50)
- 3.1.4. Sustain current schemes and introduce innovative ones to facilitate and encourage greater participation by women in the labour market, with the aim of increasing such participation to 40.7 per cent by 2010. (p. 50)
- 3.1.5. Acknowledge the benefits that can be secured through the effective management of immigration, and implement integration programmes that facilitate the inclusion of immigrants while taking into consideration the constraints posed by Malta's land-size and population density. (p. 50)
- 3.1.6. Increase the availability of affordable housing. (p. 50)
- 3.1.7. Mobilise all actors, including trade unions, with a view to promoting social cohesion. (p. 50)

3.2. Strengthening Public Health (p. 50)

- 3.2.1. Involve all stakeholders, including health care workers and patients, in health care policy development. (p. 52)
- 3.2.2. Finalise an updated National Environmental Health Action Plan. (p. 52)
- 3.2.3. Take steps to ensure sustainability of the public health services by introducing changes to the mechanism of health care funding in order to render it sufficient and sustainable. (p. 52)
- 3.2.4. Introduce higher efficiency gains coupled with accountability and transparency, for public resource utilisation in the health services. (p. 52)

- 3.2.5. Enhance social inclusion by improving access to rights and services by persons with mental health problems. *(p. 52)*
 - 3.2.6. Tackle the problem of obesity by enhancing the focus on healthy eating and exercise. *(p. 52)*
 - 3.2.7. Support the development of preventive activities in relation to diabetes, circulatory diseases and cancer. *(p. 52)*
 - 3.2.8. Continue to develop community services, particularly for elderly persons, so as to keep them healthy, active and socially integrated for as long as possible. *(p. 52)*
 - 3.2.9. Provide further support for NGOs and Self-help Groups to become important stakeholders in health care schemes, including community nursing services and palliative care. *(p. 52)*
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3.3. Education for Sustainable Development *(p. 52)*

- 3.3.1. Continue to implement the recommendations made in the School Attendance Improvement Report with a view to decreasing the early school-leavers rate to 35 per cent by 2010. *(p. 55)*
 - 3.3.2. Initiate the process to draft a clear national policy about education for sustainable development that is reflected within the National Minimum Curriculum. *(p. 55)*
 - 3.3.3. Adopt measures so that all sectors of the population can benefit from formal, informal and non-formal education for sustainable development. *(p. 55)*
 - 3.3.4. Continue to develop and implement reforms that integrate education for sustainable development themes across the Curriculum. *(p. 55)*
 - 3.3.5. Promote lifelong educational programmes that focus on enabling meaningful learning experiences that foster sustainable behaviour in educational institutions, the workplace, families and communities. *(p. 55)*
 - 3.3.6. Increase cooperation and partnerships among members of the educational community and other stakeholders, including the private sector. *(p. 55)*
 - 3.3.7. Promote a mentality favouring a change in values towards more sustainable lifestyles. *(p. 55)*
 - 3.3.8. Continue to develop and implement an ongoing and holistic environmental education framework in the formal education sector, particularly through the provision of environmental science at post-secondary and undergraduate levels. *(p. 55)*
 - 3.3.9. Promote research in environmental education to ensure the effectiveness of education for sustainable development programmes. *(p. 55)*
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3.4. Promoting Stakeholder and Major Group Participation in Decision-Making *(p. 55)*

- 3.4.1. Promote effective public participation in the decision-making process relating to sustainable development by ensuring that civil society representation and participation is present through all stages of decision-making. *(p. 56)*
 - 3.4.2. Devise educational schemes that enable people to acquire the necessary skills to democratically and effectively participate in decisions concerning sustainable development. *(p. 56)*
 - 3.4.3. Provide opportunities for stakeholders to be involved directly in the design, implementation and monitoring of strategies associated with sustainable development, thus promoting a sense of ownership among stakeholders and securing their commitment to take the necessary action. *(p. 56)*
 - 3.4.4. Strengthen the capacity of Local Councils to support and encourage public participation in decisionmaking. *(p. 56)*
 - 3.4.5. Promote awareness among members of the media about their important role in empowering people to participate in decisions relating to sustainable development. *(p. 56)*
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3.5. Raising Public Awareness *(p. 56)*

- 3.5.1. Promote awareness of the need for a holistic strategy that integrates the various macro and micro aspects of sustainable development. *(p. 57)*
- 3.5.2. Promote an understanding of environmental and scientific issues by presenting the relative information in such a way that the general public can clearly understand the extent and implications of the issues involved. *(p. 57)*

4. Cross-cutting Strategic Issues (p. 58)

4.1. The Need for Integrated Planning (p. 58)

- 4.1.1. By 2010, draw up an Integrated Spatial Development Plan to take forward the Sustainable Development Strategy, with the participation of major stakeholders. (p. 58)
 - 4.1.2. Develop links between the National Strategy for Sustainable Development and other national strategies so as to ensure coherence between all strategies. (p. 58)
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4.2. Developing Procedures for Monitoring: Indicators and Target Setting (p. 58)

- 4.2.1. Devise arrangements to construct, on an ongoing basis, a set of sustainability indicators, to be developed in close liaison with the National Statistics Office, to cater for Malta's specific needs and at the same time to satisfy the international and regional reporting obligations of Malta. (p. 59)
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4.3. Promoting use of Economic Instruments (p. 59)

- 4.3.1. By 2008, draw up a strategy to enhance the use of economic instruments, such as charges, taxes, subsidies, deposit refund schemes, and trading schemes to apply the polluter pays principle and promote sustainable development in Malta. (p. 60)
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4.4. Enforcement (p. 60)

- 4.4.1. By 2007, put in place an audit of enforcement arrangements to assess the adequacy of the current enforcement mechanisms and to promote integration of responsibilities and reduction of overlaps. (p. 61)
 - 4.4.2. Introduce modern approaches for effective decision-making, legislation and policy, including firm but fair enforcement mechanisms, and regularly review and revise such approaches to ensure that they are effective and efficient. (p. 61)
 - 4.4.3. Improve capacity building to enhance enforcement. (p. 61)
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4.5. Promoting International and Regional Co-operation (p. 61)

- 4.5.1. Continue to strengthen Malta's international and regional role by signing and ratifying conventions and regional environmental agreements dealing with environmental concerns. (p. 62)
 - 4.5.2. Promote public awareness about Malta's obligations with regard to international legal instruments and agreements for trans-boundary cooperation, and about the moral and material benefits that can be derived for Malta through such instruments and agreements. (p. 62)
 - 4.5.3. Contribute aid and technical assistance to the developing world, in a manner consonant with the resources of the country, and put in place a plan and an institutional set-up for overseas development aid. (p. 62)
 - 4.5.4. Co-operate with international organisations such as the NGOs in local capacity building by identifying, promoting and supporting activities in the area of sustainable management of environmental resources. (p. 62)
 - 4.5.5. Explore the possibility of collaborating with other countries, parties to regional or international sustainable development strategies, to put in place a benchmarking exercise with regard to the attainment of sustainable development goals. (p. 62)
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Total number of priorities: 246

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