



2017 LIST OF OBJECTIVES

Summary

**FOR A HEALTHY QUALITY OF LIFE,
CLEAN ENVIRONMENT AND
SUSTAINABLE FUTURE**





ESG OBJECTIVES

2017

Since 2000 the ESG has campaigned on many environmental issues, organising these into core objectives, detailing concerns and recommendations for action.

Indeed since 2003, we have made submissions to all political parties at every election determined to see the environment firmly placed on the political agenda. It is clear that there has been progress made over time with our aims and concerns included in a Government produced Environmental Action and Management Plan under different administrations. The ESG continues to monitor all aspects of Gibraltar's environment and we continue to work and campaign for these to be completed for the betterment of our environment and quality of life.

(You can find past documents on our website at: www.esg-gib.net)

KEY ISSUES INCLUDE

- 1. CLIMATE CHANGE
- 2. ADHERENCE TO EU (OR HIGHER) ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS BEYOND BREXIT
- 3. ENERGY
- 4. POLLUTION – (LAND/SEA, PORT & DOCKYARD IMPACTS – AIRPORT & BORDER)
- 5. TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT
- 6. BUNKERING
- 7. CROSS BORDER
- 8. EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES
- 9. SEWAGE TREATMENT
- 10. WASTE / RECYCLING / LITTER
- 11. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT
- 12. CONSERVATION
- 13. EMF RADIATION
- 14. TOURISM AND BEACHES
- 15. MISCELLANEOUS
- 16. ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION & MANAGEMENT PLAN

ESG Committee

1. **CLIMATE CHANGE** - if we are to measure our impact on climate change accurately then our unsustainable lifestyle and oil and port-based economies, as well as air travel needs, cancel out the savings on carbon produced via a number of EU obligated strategies underway. The ESG believes these issues require long-term plans to move Gibraltar away from fossil fuel based activity and economy if we are to meaningfully reduce our impact on climate change. Greater public discussion on this major issue is needed to inform and influence every sector of the community away from immediate short-term economic gain. We call for such an open public debate to be held in 2017 as the most pressing issue facing humanity today

2. **ADHERENCE TO EU (OR HIGHER) ENVIRONMENTAL STANDARDS BEYOND BREXIT**

– the threat to environmental progress is very real with the departure of our membership of the EU. The ESG welcomes forming part of the forum with Govt and the GONHS to explore the challenges facing our local environment. It also welcomes the commitment given by the current administration to maintain EU standards on the environment beyond Brexit and hopes this benchmark will be supported by future administrations. The ESG believes it is critical to uphold these and even higher standards given that EU rules are primarily developed for significantly larger countries than Gibraltar in terms of footprint and population. Most people in Gibraltar are living close to polluting activity therefore EU stds are inadequate and we should go well above these to protect people's health and quality of life

3. **ENERGY** – Power today - The ESG has always maintained the need for an interim, least impacting conventional power station while Gibraltar rolls out a dynamic and widespread renewable energy programme that will reduce our reliance on the power station over time. We have consulted widely and extensively with Govt and project advisers to establish that best available technology is being applied in the new dual fuel power station to achieve clean and safe emission levels compliant with all legislation whatever fuel is used (Diesel or LNG). Renewable Energy - Projects have emerged over the years with solar thermal technology used at a number of Govt installations and more are expected. We have been informed that the new power station will include a modern grid system to allow micro generation from approved sustainable-energy systems, with a Govt buy-back option scheme in place for surplus energy.

More details on request

4. **POLLUTION** – There are many areas we follow regarding air and noise pollution matters in Gibraltar and Bay area. As indicators the following represent most of the areas and issues in question:

- a. Real time air monitor for NW district b. Mobile air pollution monitor
- c. Onshore Power Supply (connection and conversion)- coming on stream –ESG following closely especially for Dockyard/Port and Extension Jetty facilities
- d. Ships at anchor – best practice to be applied by all visiting vessels to keep funnel emissions to a minimum
- e. Vapour recovery technology from shipping to eliminate fugitive fumes
- f. Best practice and available technology
- g. Road idling –rules regarding unnecessary idling of engines by all road vehicles need to be enforced
- h. Airport air and noise impacts i. Border issues including traffic j. Fuel Stations relocation once runway road open

More details on request

5. **TRANSPORT AND TRAFFIC** –

Indicators provided – ultimate aim of reducing traffic and creating a healthier environment for all.

- a. Quick implementation of the STTP with clear timeline in place b. Road idling –rules regarding unnecessary idling of engines by all road vehicles need to be enforced
- c. Plan needed to reduce diesel use in favour of cleaner fuels and technologies. Impacts on health make this an urgent issue.
- d. Plan needed for border traffic and people movement once new runway road in place
- e. Discourage car ownership numbers
- f. Take action on private bus operators to adhere to European 6 emission standards. New routes to reprovide services as Gibraltar continuously develops g. Hybrid buses to be used on level routes
- h. Car ownership - Measures to control number of cars owned by individuals must be introduced
- i. Emission Stds - Gibraltar's land footprint and roads are limited. Many of us live in close proximity to traffic and are therefore affected on a daily basis. As with other environmental rules and regulations the ESG would urge the authorities to legislate for only European level 6 buses to be used in Gibraltar and not allow the present loophole which sees such buses sold off when replaced and used privately (as private buses) where regulations on emissions are less stringent. These vehicles are operating in the same air space as the main bus fleet and we are still breathing in their fumes j. Hybrid buses to be used on flat routes
- k. Noise and air pollution on our roads can be intolerable especially in hotspots. Motorbikes (esp. 2-stroke), commercial vehicles and construction machinery are the worst offenders
- l. Continue monitoring against use of Mobile Phones while in charge of vehicle m. Pavement provision
- n. Walking / Cycling – to be encouraged by creating calmer and cleaner streets o. New Bicycle Scheme
- p. Need for use of best available technology q. Driver code of conduct **More details on request**

6. BUNKERING/SHIPPING -

Issues of concern and being monitored are:

- a. Spills and Fumes
- b. VTS (Vessel Tracking Systems)
- c. Detached Mole impacts
- d. More land based fuel storage
- e. Best available technology and practice must be adhered to by all who use the Gibraltar port to minimise polluting impacts – history shows it is always very difficult to pin down polluters due to wind etc.
- f. Onshore connection and connection – starting to be introduced at both the Dockyard and Western Arm areas
- g. Ships at anchor - should follow best practice and limit power generation to essential while in emission controlled areas (ECAs) to reduce harmful emissions close to shore

More details on request

7. CROSS BORDER ISSUES -

Co-operation - and contact continues between the ESG and Spanish Environmental NGOs. Long-term objectives shared include for a moratorium on industry and the need for an independent and rigorous cross border epidemiological study. Work is on going

Complaint - the ESG acts as a watchdog on regional environmental issues and continues to file detailed complaints to the EU on the transgressions of pollution spikes usually from the CEPESA Oil Refinery. In February this year we lodged another complaint on excessive flaring by this industry, which is now being investigated against the background of our long-term complaints and information lodged with the EU since 2002

Govt action – it was a new and welcome step to see the Gibraltar Government also file a formal complaint with the EU against air pollution across the border- a measure supported across the House in Parliament

Western Beach - since April 2010, Western Beach has seen appalling and illegal levels of sewage contamination from a diversion pipe in La Linea. The ESG has campaigned hard on this at several levels. It is welcome to note that this Christmas period, usually a horrific period of sewage inflow to Western Beach has been remarkably cleaner, though still contaminated. ESG hopes the beach will continue to show an improved record in the run up to the summer otherwise our recommendations for its closure continue to be in place. Will press for more action by local Government as well as the EU via our MEPs to ensure that corrective steps are taken by the Spanish authorities to permanently block the illegal discharge pipe

8. **EPIDEMIOLOGICAL STUDIES** – an independent, cross border epidemiological study is necessary because people on both sides of the border are deeply concerned about the high incidence of cancer and higher mortality that exists in many of the bay populations – cancer clusters have been identified in Sevilla, Cadiz and Huelva in a report led by Public Health WHO expert Professor Joan Benach who has acted as adviser to the Environmental groups

Gibraltar also suffers its share of cancers and given our location should be included in a bay wide independent study produced by epidemiologists with an environmental scientific background

9. **SEWAGE TREATMENT** - this project saw a tender awarded in early 2015 but has not progressed since. It is not acceptable that we continue to dump our sewage into the sea and is also illegal under EU law. It also weakens our case to fight Western Beach sewage. The ESG will be campaigning to see construction for this facility confirmed and started during 2017

We advocate for anaerobic digestion process to be included in the new treatment facility, aiding in odour reduction and converting waste to heat very efficiently

10. WASTE / RECYCLING / LITTER

Waste – more of Gibraltar's rubbish is being recycled than ever before with significant investment made by Government and the private sector in upgrading facilities. The new Eco Park expansion project at the ex-incinerator site will significantly increase our recycling capacity. With plans to have this operational within the year Gibraltar's rubbish situation will never be the same again

Litter – Gibraltar still suffers from excessive littering. Believe clearer information of all facilities (via signs, leaflets, media), improved street facilities (bins), enforcement (litter wardens), are all necessary. ESG has involved itself with Gibraltar's littering issues since its first CUTW campaign in 2005. The campaign that enjoys widespread community support has a number of key aims, which have formed the backbone of a Litter Strategy and set of principles that the ESG works on throughout the year. Reports on every major clean up event are produced by the ESG, published, and submitted to the authorities and agencies. While more of our aims are being realised each year there is much that still needs to be done.

More details on request

11. PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

Indicators as follows:

- a. Eplanning – major improvement
- b. Enforcement laws – have improved but still awaiting the new Town Act to be in place
- c. Government projects – Still not requiring DPC permission
- d. Gibraltar Development Plan should be reviewed asap to include changes to both Town and Heritage Acts
- e. Online planning information
- f. Landscaping in large projects – this is essential to keep green spaces in our city space
- g. Sustainability in development – energy, water, waste and materials used to follow sustainable targets

DPC member – since 2012, the ESG focuses on projects that directly affect the environment and those that affect quality of life. It also assists the Commission as necessary on various matters as required. We have put together considerable cases for example on the Stadium, Waste Oil Treatment Plant and Mobile Phone Mast Installation always with detailed explanations, recommendations and solutions. Our concern for conservation and protection of the natural and built heritage also forms part of our remit on DPC. Strategic Vistas and retaining Gibraltar's well known iconic landscapes and profiles is also important to the ESG

More details on request

12. **CONSERVATION** – ESG is concerned that without a Gibraltar wide holistic plan our open, green spaces and coastal sites could be built upon even though these provide important breathing spaces and habitats in an otherwise increasingly urbanised environment. ESG also considers that major developments should incorporate more green areas and landscaping (Eastside development for e.g.) - See Planning for more information on this.

The ESG welcomes several new programmes led by the Department for the Environment, to better manage local biodiversity, protect important habitat and create awareness. Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan still awaiting official publication and implementation

More details on request

13. **EMF RADIATION** – EMF radiation from mobile phone masts and other WiFi equipment was part of an intense campaign by the ESG back in 2014-2015. It resulted in a Government policy on mast installation, which promoted the precautionary principle and holistic planning for all operators. This helped the overall situation considerably. As growing evidence on health impacts from this invisible pollution becomes available, especially on effects on young children, the elderly and infirm, we would like for more to be done in this area. For example, there are a growing number of countries that are banning WiFi in nurseries and first schools, and even within hospital wards, promoting the use of cabled alternatives. This is an on-going concern that we shall continue to discuss with the authorities, as greater awareness must be raised about potential health impacts on young children with the almost permanent use of ipads and other such equipment. Currently urging for cabled internet service to be installed in schools.

14. TOURISM AND BEACHES –

Mass tourism carries environmental impacts on wildlife and wilderness areas due to transport needs and numbers involved. Peak season sees large cruise liners, flights and thousands of cars entering Gibraltar on a monthly basis. This impacts on infrastructure, facilities, traffic etc. The Upper Rock Management Plan, covering one of the more popular attractions locally, is open for consultation and addresses these impacts. Well overdue, this plan needs to be finalised, and measures implemented, to improve the look and appearance of the Upper Rock and set in place much needed improved management systems. Current proposals being considered to see the Cable Car service radically expand must be very carefully considered in terms of impact on natural environment as well as on traffic and safety issues both during construction (moving additional tourists in the Upper Rock with a cable car service, and construction vehicles) and once the new service is up and running and how this will impact on infrastructure etc. 2017 expects to service around 330,000 passengers (source MH Bland)

Beaches – Gibraltar's beaches need to be reviewed once again with beaches on the west side needing special attention. Green spaces are looking quite abandoned and unhealthy in places and resurfacing in some of the concreted areas badly needed. Easy sea access at Little Bay should be provided.

15. MISCELLANEOUS –

Indicators such as:

- a) Smoking- butt bins
- b) Dog Poo or faeces – Good to see DNA testing running now – results will hopefully be seen soon
- c) Fireworks at New Year – Especially in estates requires more controls
- d) Balloons on National Day – After years of campaigning the practice of mass release of balloons on National Day has finally been stopped which is very positive for the environment

More details on request

16. **ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION & MANAGEMENT PLAN (EAMP)** – the existing plan has now over-run in various areas and requires a review. This would also indicate a more accurate timeline for issues important to community life. Although the EAMP is published online and accessible by all it has not been presented in an open meeting where the public could be asked to participate, engage and support Government measures to make Gibraltar as pollution free and sustainable a community as possible.

Another final and crucial point is that this plan is the action document to apply the principles contained in the “Overseas Territories Environmental Charter” Gibraltar signed up to, over 10 years ago. This action document should be long running and be supported at cross party level.

At the last elections both leaders of the political parties publicly pledged they would work together on the environment. We shall be pursuing any possibility of seeing this happen as we campaign on the aims of this document.

ESG efforts since 2002 has seen, or placed pressure, for:

- The setting up of our Air Monitoring Stations
- Independent air sampling via Bucket Brigade
- Reduction in Bunkering Fumes
- Environmental Policy
- Initial Epidemiological Study
- Recycling facilities and action on litter
- Increased Environmental Awareness via outreach programmes, talks, community clean ups etc.
- New Power Station Project get underway
- Seat on the Development and Planning Commission (DPC)
- CUTW Campaign aims receive Government support
- Refurbishment of a number of CUTW hotspots
- Cross border work on the CEPESA Oil Refinery and Sewage at Western Beach achieve results in Brussels
- Cross border campaign result in Audit on CEPESA Refinery to set out a mandate for real change & clean-up
- Radiation reduction efforts on mobile masts, etc. (see ESG Facebook page: Mobile Phone Mast Concern Gibraltar)
- 2014 - The ESG receive “A Group Heritage Award” in recognition of the value the Clean up the World Campaign represents for Gibraltar’s built and natural environment
- 2016 - The ESG receive an “Independent Civil Society Award” from Equality Rights Group in recognition and deep appreciation for the constant vigilance, dedication and disciplined hard work demonstrated by the group in the interests of safeguarding Gibraltar against encroaching dangers and degradation of its environment

Useful Information resources can be found on Gibraltar Government website –

- National Renewable Energy Action Plan
- National Energy Efficiency Action Plan
- A city-level Greenhouse Gas Inventory for Gibraltar
- Environmental Action & Management Plan
- Environmental Charter Guiding Principles
- Gibraltar Nature Reserve Management Plan 2016 – Consultation Draft
- Thinking Green 2015 Booklet

Go to Publications page under Environment for more reports



Members of : Clean up the World – Bay Bucket Brigade – Plataforma para el Estudio Epidemiológico – Action at European Commission level

Visit ESG website: www.esg-gib.net for more information in our interest areas (see past wish lists)
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