

# ESG Annual Review

News! News! News!  
New Logo! New website! New office!

[www.esg-gib.net](http://www.esg-gib.net)

1st Floor Fit for Life

2009-2010

## Dear Friends....

The ESG is very proud to announce that we now have a central town office and will be launching a revitalised website to properly reflect the breadth of the projects and research we do as a highly active grassroots environmental NGO.

18th March 2010 AGM will bring members up to date on key issues as well as run through usual business.

We hope to invite members to monthly meetings to explore new projects and find ways of improving Gibraltar's environment.

## Clean up the World Is Gibraltar getting cleaner?

In 2008 and 9 the ESG has helped organise several clean ups from quick specialised ones to major projects involving hundreds of volunteers.

We have created Environmental Awards, held parades, exhibitions and awareness days and regularly lobbied the Government to tackle Gibraltar's ongoing littering and waste problems. We have also led tours in Gibraltar and to Los Barrios with different groups highlighting our ongoing waste issues and how Gibraltar presently deals with it.

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In January 2010 the ESG members tackled another back-of-stadium, coastal clean up with assistance from the Port Authority, St John's Cadets and members of the Canoe Club.

The ESG also met recently with the Ministry of Environment but sadly not many positives to report here. The ESG is therefore currently reviewing its strategy on this matter and will be sharing our ideas with members in the first quarter of 2010.



Cleaning up behind stadium



Volunteer looks in disbelief



Clean up the world 2009

## Just some contents

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## NEWS IN BRIEF

- ESG and Hassan's International Law Firm in Barcelona in 2009 to explore legal options to clean up Bay;
- ESG to help organise permaculture course during 2010 – more news soon!
- 2009 ESG helped screen "End of the Line" - film about global unsustainable fishing practices- hope to see other similar films screened during 2010;
- Govt to release Action Plan on Environmental Charter- shall update you with our views once this is published;
- Scouts to lead on Earth Hour once again this year- lets all support the action on 27th March at 8.30pm and switch off your lights for one hour – tell your friends and family!!!
- Final documentation on the New Development Plan for Gibraltar approved and published in 2009 – ESG published its review available on our website

## Significant Dates:

- 18/3 – ESG AGM
- 26/3 – ESG Open Members meeting
- 27/3—8.30pm Switch Off
- 7/4— Green Car in Gib
- 22/4 —World Earth Day
- 5/6— World Environment Day
- 17-19/9 -Clean up the World 2010

## Totally Green Car visits Gibraltar!!

The ESG will be hosting the very exciting stopover of a Belgian campaigner on the 7th April on his 12,000km journey in an alternative vehicle – from Copenhagen (seat of latest Climate Change Summit) to Cape Town (hosting this year's FIFA World Cup!).

Xavier Van Der Stappen, anthropologist, educationalist, author and filmmaker



[www.coptocap.org](http://www.coptocap.org)

extraordinaire- will be pulling a trailer holding a 20 panel exhibition on Energy, Pollution, Housing, Climate change and Clean Technologies.

Gibraltar is one of 25 countries that will be graced by Xavier's exhibition and Casemates will be the venue.

Continued on page 2.

## Epidemiological studies

The ESG, with the support of the Gibraltar community, together with Spanish NGO's and citizens lobbied hard under the **Plataforma por el Estudio Epidemiológico** for a cross border study to be carried out to assess the impacts heavy industry could be having on the health of the citizens.

The ESG was greatly relieved when Government announced its intention to launch its own independent study with or without its Spanish neighbours. While any study of this type would be far more accurate if carried out on a cross border basis, we believe it is an important step that will help Gibraltar gain a better understanding of public health in our home town – Completion of first phase of the Gibraltar study is set to be the end of the year – we shall update the public with any further news on this important issue.

## CEPSA AUDIT

In 2009 the ESG was able to obtain a copy of an audit carried out on the **CEPSA Oil Refinery** which had been commissioned by La Junta in 2007 after a spate of particularly bad polluting episodes

ESG Legal advisers, *Hassan's International Law Firm*, got hold of a copy which was then carefully analysed by ESG local and international technical advisers. A report was then compiled and translated and has since been widely distributed, as well as been posted on our website. The audit let the refinery off lightly BUT also provided a lot of useful info in its "recommendations" section, on how it could do "even better"! We shall campaign

for them to implement these changes rapidly and will continue to monitor the situation.



CEPSA refinery pollutes into 2010



ESG, Spanish NGO's and citizens

## Recycling in Gibraltar

Since our last report the Government has been improving recycling bin facilities by expanding the service to some estates and large schools. This is good news but, much more needs to be done.

Specifically:

- **Where does it go?** The ESG believes the public would like to know where our collected glass and cans end up once these have been removed from the large bins and exported.
- **More bins needed!** Now that some estates and major schools have bins closer to them, we ask that more facilities be provided for high generation areas: such as bars, restaurants, clubs etc. If government wants people to recycle they have to make it easy for them to do.

**Send it in our bills!!**

Promoting the service and encouraging the citizen and business to recycle is also a government responsibility. A promotion campaign reaching each and every household and business is necessary and what better way than using the utilities bill service and enclosing green advice and information?

## Green car visits Gibraltar

(continued from front page)

From 11.00am to 4pm we shall be there- The Nature Shop in Casemates have kindly allowed us to screen a documentary on Xavier's earlier trip to Dakar and this will be running throughout the day in their premises, everyone is welcome and it is free of charge. For more information on this exciting project visit:

[www.coptocap.org](http://www.coptocap.org)

and [www.parisdakaroil.org](http://www.parisdakaroil.org)

**“Could we have zero emissions cars in Gibraltar?”**

## TRAFFIC! Traffic! Traffic! It is becoming unbearable!

The Government published its traffic plan for consultation in 2009. Falling short on mobility, the plan focused mainly on provision of facilities. The ESG published a paper which contained lots of carefully constructed ideas from our membership and this document was sent to the media for publication as well as to the Government and can also be found on our website. There is a growing call for sanity from the community for managing our traffic chaos, lets hope Govt heeds the

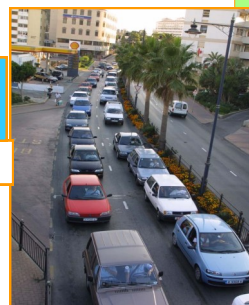
calls. However, its not all the Government's responsibility, citizens should make an effort and avoid using their cars as much as possible. It seems that Gibraltar is a society that is very reliant on the use of the car even at the expense of our air quality and health. Last few years has seen an active campaign called **In Town without My Car** which has raised much awareness on this issue.

See ITWMC Website for Dedicated campaign

Endless queues



Devil's Tower Road



Winston Churchill Av.



Cry out for litter wardens



Litter hotspot example



Massive Pile 2009

# OESCO, IPPC and Air Emissions

Its fairly common knowledge now that Gib Govt plans to replace three aging power stations with one modern plant, located in Lathbury Barracks. Our lingering concerns are that the launch of new plant is still a long way off with increasing noise and air pollution from old stations the consequences from **existing and increasing** buildings coming on stream. \*\*The new residents of Waterport Terraces are now aware of the noise and pollution levels in the area due to the power station- residents all over

Gibraltar have had to tolerate or rather, suffer, the impacts from all three power plants for several years now- lets urge Govt to ensure the new station is in place without further delay- **of course the ESG would like to see serious efforts at phasing in suitable renewable energy systems to lower our overall carbon footprint and reduce pollution and will continue to lobby Govt on this important issue.**



OESCO emissions



Emissions from MOD plant

## Renewable energy

Watch out for a full report on a renewable energy study carried out for Gibraltar in 2005 that will soon be published in our web-site!

Also read ESG's Greening Agenda available on our web-site.

## Gibraltar Air Quality

Are you worried about the quality of air you are breathing? Remember to check [www.gibraltairquality.gi](http://www.gibraltairquality.gi) for data on air quality in your area.

Please contact us with any queries you may have on [esg@gibtelecom.net](mailto:esg@gibtelecom.net)



## Demanding a Real Deal!!

A climate change vigil was held in Main Street outside No. 6 in December 2009, joining thousands of similar community groups all over the world. The aim of this action was to show public support for this campaign and to share our thoughts and concerns about the Impact that Climate Change is already having and will bring upon many citizens of this planet. Citizens were encouraged to demand a **Real Deal** from Copenhagen and our local action was supported by respected dignitaries of our community such as Bishop Caruana, Bernard Linares with the welcome presence of other NGO's, associations and citizens.

## 350 Campaign

As we approached the end of 2009 a few global campaigns came along which the ESG and friends embraced and brought to life here in Gibraltar. The first was the **350 Campaign**- essentially about communities the world over drawing attention to the Copenhagen Climate Change Summit in December 2009 and urging everyone to take note of this important event and lend support for the call for change.

(The 350 number itself being a safe level of CO2 emissions to be present in our atmosphere before causing catastrophic climate change according to climate change experts)

A group of us went to Eastern Beach where Eddie Lucas's carpenter, Bob Houston, had created three giant numbers 3, 5, 0. These were photographed with the group and the iconic Rock of Gibraltar in the background and copies of this image was sent to the global campaign website and used to lobby politicians alongside thousands of similar pictures from communities around the world. Thanks to all those who helped and came to support the day!



Candlelit Vigil

## Plastic in our lives

We have seen a local plastic bag campaign called **NO2PB Campaign** on the Rock for some time calling for citizens to stop using plastic bags and instead opt for reusable bags. To some extent, we have seen some improvements in Gibraltar on this, but as with so many other things, progress IS SLOW!!! Our next door neighbours have vowed to ban plastic bags altogether and Carrefour in La Linea has implemented this rule in 2010. Why can't we do the same in Gibraltar? **Why can't we do something simple, clear and so obviously beneficial to the environment?**

This requires some legislation, targeting business groups, offering incentives, and providing information to retailers on alternative bags, maybe even subsidising them for the first year or something.

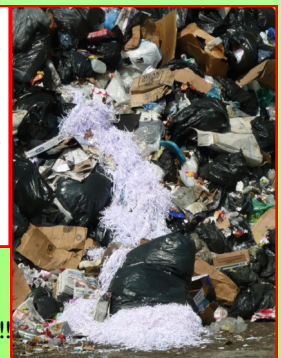
Gibraltar could promote itself on the world stage for taking steps where it can to minimise harmful impacts on the environment- our size is our advantage- and yes, it does matter!

As consumers though we make choices every single day- we can choose to buy loose vegetables and pack these in a reusable bag- we can choose to insist that all retailers provide alternative bags at the point of the till- together we can make inroads! For more information on the **NO2PB** campaign contact: [no2pbqib@gmail.com](mailto:no2pbqib@gmail.com)



**JUST SAY NO!! to PLASTIC!! Remember: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!!**

The tonnes of plastic we use everyday ends up in the Processing Plant in Los Barrios where it is hopefully separated and sent on for recycling- much ends up in landfill though so we need to reduce our use of plastic wherever we can



# Tripartite Forum

NGO's from Spain and Gibraltar – **GONHS, ESG, AGADEN, VERDEMAR and GREENPEACE** from Madrid -have held various meetings in recent months to discuss the best way of seeing positive results emanate from the Tripartite Process which, in an unprecedented move, publicly committed to tackling Bay environmental issues which are of serious concern to citizens!! Two major dossiers have already been submitted to the Forum by the NGO's identifying critical areas of concern, with impacts and proposed solutions. A third dossier is currently being drawn up in response to ministerial statements on specific commitments. The NGO's now wish to have **direct participation** in the process believing it will help achieve tangible progress as the groups have vast resources to call upon in terms of information researched and gathered over several years on many of the issues concerned.



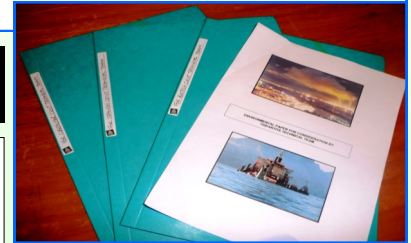
NGO's meet to organise tripartite delivery



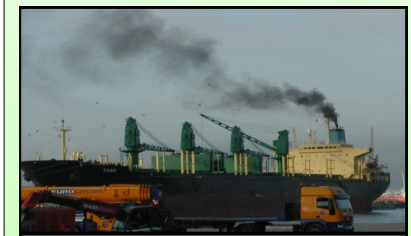
Oil slick reaches camp Bay

## PORT EXPANSIONS

Anyone travelling around the Bay can see that urbanisation as well as developments along the coastline are growing at an alarming rate- Add to the mix the relentless growth of the Spanish Port requiring massive reclamation schemes with resultant contamination and damage to ecosystems and loss of habitat. Gibraltar Port has been quoted as saying that the huge increase in the Algeciras Port exacerbated the strength of the waves which destroyed the play park round the back of Morrison's as well as much of the infrastructure around the Port Office itself (in compressing and exaggerating wave movement). We would like to see the technical interpretation of this as, if correct, should serve to halt any further reclamation from both sides –immediately!!



Tripartite Dossier



Polluting ship at Crinavis Port, La Linea

## Pinar del Rey

Pinar Del Rey continues to be under threat- it's still a most beautiful green area with such eco-integrity which surely demands that **we all protect and preserve it?** This is actually **happening today** and is an issue we can try and do something about. **PLEASE** support any further action on this during 2010. Will update.



Pinar Del Rey Protest April 2008

## Active Youth

Every year we are most fortunate to receive help from many of our members - **Chelsea Edwards** is one such person whose enthusiasm and concern for our environment is an example to all. We invited Chelsea to pen a few words about what the environment means to her...(see photo on bottom right—Chelsea stands 2 in from right in a bucket brigade tee shirt.

"..... The question often pondered by the youth of Gibraltar is 'Why should we care about our environment?' Many young people do not give enough thought to this question but the reality is that we are 'the people of tomorrow', our generation is the one who will want to live comfortably with our own families in a Gibraltar that will not become a health hazard for them or anyone else. However to achieve this we must work together to provide ourselves and all Gibraltarian citizens with a sustainable way of life. The main problem with Gibraltar's youth is peer pressure; if their friends don't care about the environment then they won't either so as not to seem 'abnormal'.

Another problem is ignorance, in Gibraltar especially, people are not always fully aware of the problems we face because of litter or not bothering to recycle. As part of our youth I am aware that there are organisations such as the ESG or the Westside and Bayside school Environmental Clubs that work towards promoting the use of recycling bins, encouraging participation and raising awareness of the problems affecting Gibraltar's environment.

Schools are now also including global problems in their Physical, Social and Health Education classes and the small minority groups are always trying to change the ways of the majority, as was quoted by Margaret Mead: '**Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world.....** By Chelsea Edwards. - ESG member"

Thanks to Chelsea for her contribution and also to Catherine Garner—these two young ladies were especially helpful during 2009 in their efforts and willingness to help protect our wonderful planet





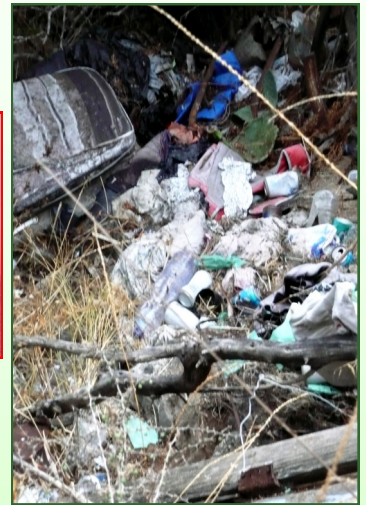
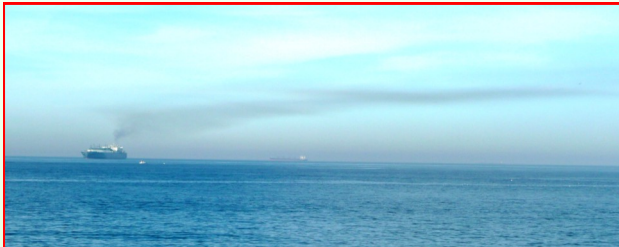
Last few parts of FEDRA plucked from the sea....



Seagull coated in oil



TIP TO TIP WALK



- USEFUL WEBSITES**
- [www.esg-gib.net](http://www.esg-gib.net)
  - [www.monbiot.com](http://www.monbiot.com)
  - [www.stopclimatechangechaos.org](http://www.stopclimatechangechaos.org)
  - [www.gibraltarairquality.gi](http://www.gibraltarairquality.gi)
  - [www.freecycle.gi](http://www.freecycle.gi)
  - [www.gonhs.org](http://www.gonhs.org)
  - [www.foe.co.uk/groups/Gibraltar](http://www.foe.co.uk/groups/Gibraltar)
  - [www.cleanuptheworld.org](http://www.cleanuptheworld.org)
  - [www.recycle.gi](http://www.recycle.gi)
  - [www.gibraltar.gov.gi](http://www.gibraltar.gov.gi)
  - [www.wecare.gi](http://www.wecare.gi)

ESG: Mailbox Centre, PO Box 561  
 Suite 223, 1/5 Irish Town, Gibraltar  
 Tel: 200 48996/43156/ 71020/ Fax: 20070885



Tom hard at work in Upper Rock path 2009



Massive new airport building going up fast- Where is the famous Rock of Gibraltar???



Eddie and colleagues at the dump



CUTW Team leaders at planning session August 2009

**SIGN UP FOR 2010  
 CLEAN UP THE  
 WORLD!!  
 CALL 200 48996**

**JOIN US!!!**



**The ESG works year round to engage the community in various programmes and actions and events—  
\*photo montage below gives a glimpse into what we have got up to over the last year!!\***



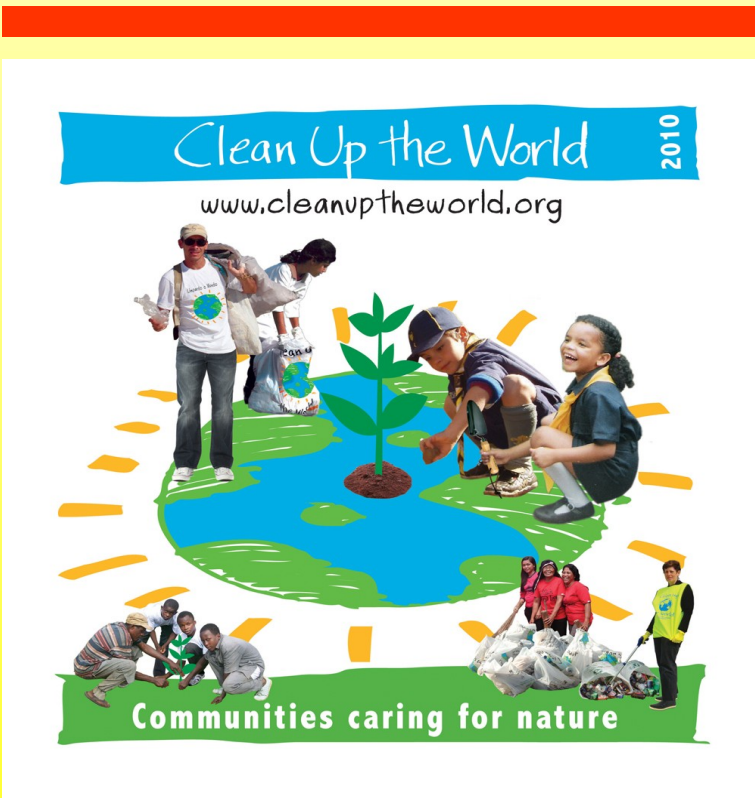
**Minister for Environment hands out awards for green pupils!**

**Tip to Tip Walk for CUTW 2009**

St Johns Cadets once again prove their mettle by tackling a most difficult area to clean by Lathbury Barracks



**CEPSA Refinery flares in December 2009**



**CUTW PARADE SCHOOL SUPPORT**



Thanks to all our sponsors who have made our work possible—in particular we would like to acknowledge the help from Hassan’s International Law Firm, Bonita Trust, PartyGaming, Rotary, Interbuild, We Care, Unite

# The ESG travelled to Barcelona and had various cross border meetings related to our Bay Pollution Campaigns



Trip to Barcelona with ESG, Hassan's and Spanish lawyers



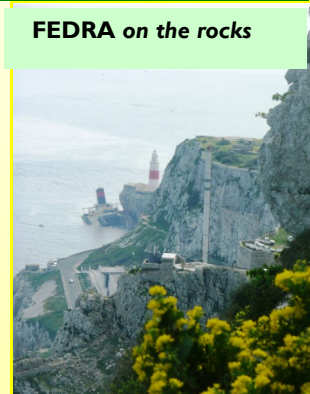
ESG and David Dumas QC also met with Professor Joan Benach, author of Mortality studies, as well as his colleague and submitted a copy of the latest report on CEPISA



MEP Neil Parish is thanked by the ESG on his last trip to Gib as an MEP



Thanks to NatWest for donation re CUTW



Thanks to Unite for their generous donation in 2009



Thanks to Tarik Shipping and Rotary for their contribution to our educational work



VERDEMAR, GONHS, ESG, GREENPEACE and AGADEN— Environmental NGO's at one of their recent meetings discussing regional issues



Thanks also to Tarik Shipping, BMI and NatWest. Also to all the wonderful volunteers who support ESG actions and events.



Chelsea Edwards and her Scout friends

You can help do your bit by joining the ESG-

Call us on 200-48996

Go to our new website:

[www.esg-gib.net](http://www.esg-gib.net)

Download a form and soon you can also pay online! Otherwise please fill in form and send with yr subscription to:

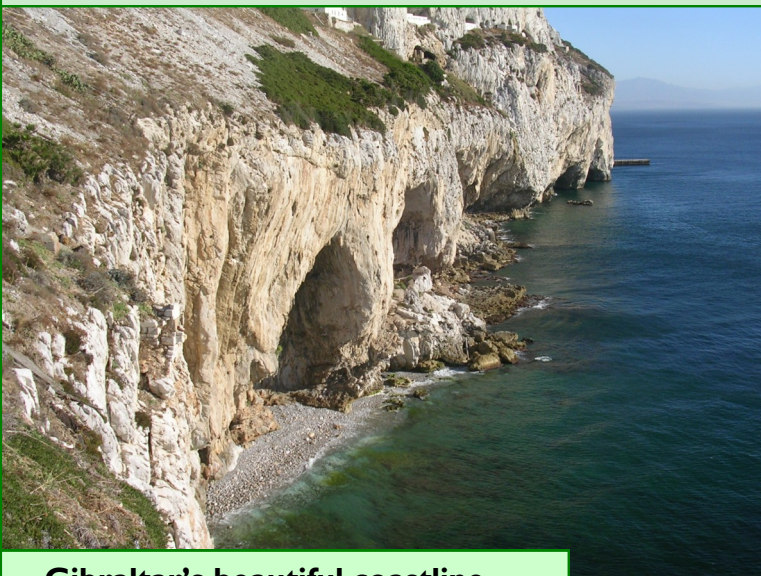
**Environmental Safety Group**

Imossi House, 1/5 Irish Town

Mailbox Centre, PO Box 561

Suite 223, Gibraltar

**Get involved!!**



Gibraltar's beautiful coastline



Conflict of land use- industry v tourism



Kerrie's mobile stand inspected by ape...!

**What a view! Lets protect this for our children!**



**LAND RECLAMATIONS GALORE- WHERE ARE THE EIA'S??**