



THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT INDICATORS 2008



Malta Environment & Planning Authority

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tracking the environment

CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION



DRIVING FORCES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

Facts

- DF1  Population density
- DF2  Sectoral contributions to GDP
- DF3  Housing permissions
- DF4  Vehicle fleet per capita
- DF5  Electricity generation
- DF6  Daily number of tourists
- DF7  Area covered by operational quarries




AIR

Facts

- A1  Particulate matter concentrations
- A2  Ozone concentrations

6 FRESH WATERS

Facts

- W1  Billed water consumption by sector 31
- W2  Nitrate levels at WSC pumping stations 32
- W3  Chloride levels at WSC pumping stations 33

9

10 COASTAL AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT





Facts

- CM1  Bathing water quality 34

12




13 RESOURCES AND WASTE

Facts

- WS1  Domestic material consumption 36
- WS2  Waste generation 37
- WS3  Municipal waste generated per capita 38
- WS4  Waste recycled 39



18

40

- A3  Concentration of benzene and other Volatile organic compounds
- A4  Nitrogen dioxide concentrations
- A5  Sulphur dioxide concentrations


CLIMATE CHANGE

Facts

- CC1  Greenhouse gas emissions by sector
- CC2  Energy intensity of the economy

LAND

Facts

- L1  % Organic farming

20

22

23

24

25




27

28

29

BIODIVERSITY




Facts

- B1  Natural areas designated 41
- B2  Status of Maltese habitats and species of European Community importance 42
- B3  Sites designated as part of the Natura 2000 network 43

44

POLICY RESPONSES

Facts

- PR1  Public environmental expenditure 45
- PR2  Schools covered by EkoSkola 46
- PR3  Sites requiring Integrated Pollution Prevention and control permits 47

48

ENDNOTES

50

REFERENCES

52

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

55

ACRONYMS

56

INTRODUCTION

Welcome to the booklet of Environment Indicators for 2008, which accompanies the 2008 Environment Report. The aim of this booklet is to allow easy access to the key datasets underpinning the analysis in the Environment Report, thereby providing timely information on key environmental trends to policymakers, organisations and the public in an active, user-friendly and systematic way.

Each indicator is accompanied by a smiley 😊, neutral 😐 or sad 😞 face, in order to help users track progress more easily. As in previous years, two criteria were used in determining whether to award a smiley or not, relating to the overall dimensions of the problem and the recent trend. Based on these two criteria, while a smiley is awarded where there is a positive trend, if there is a small positive change in the trend but the overall issue remains a matter of concern, a

smiley is not awarded. In the same way, awarding a neutral or sad face depends on both the trend and the overall seriousness of the issue.

The 2008 Environment Indicators booklet is published by the Malta Environment & Planning Authority in partnership with the National Statistics Office, and draw on datasets from across the Maltese government, as well as from other organisations, providing a broad picture of developments in the environmental field. If you have any comments or queries on them please contact ter@mepa.org.mt or telephone MEPA's Policy Coordination Unit on 2290 1537. This publication and the relevant datasheets are downloadable from the MEPA website (www.mepa.org.mt/ter).



DRIVING FORCES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CHANGE

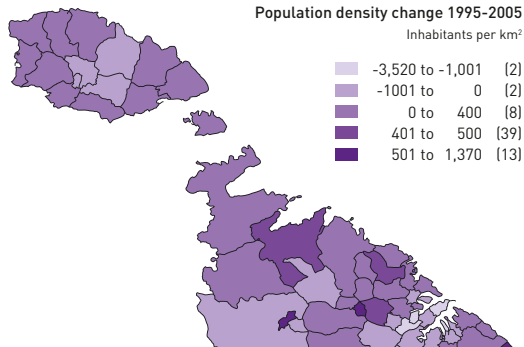
KEY FACTS:

- » Planning permissions granted for housing decreased by 40% between 2007 and 2008, but the 6,836 dwellings permitted were still in excess of annual household need, estimated at 2,000 units.
- » Fuel imports increased by 3.14% between 2004 and 2008.
- » Registered motor vehicles increased by 8.7% between 2004 and 2008.
- » Irrigated land area more than doubled between 2001 and 2005, while agricultural production fluctuated but exhibited an overall growth trend of 735 tonnes annually between 2004 and 2008.

DF1 POPULATION DENSITY

🚫 Key policy question: What impact is population density change having on the environment?

Malta's population density was 1,309 persons per square kilometre (km²) in 2008, increasing by 9% or 109 persons per km² since 1995.¹ High population density is generally accompanied by pressure on infrastructure and on amenities. However at locality level some extent of population concentration into well-organised settlements benefits the efficient provision of services and amenities, and reduces the need to travel by car. In 2005, the Northern Harbour district was the most densely populated, with a density of 4,967 per km², while Senglea was the most densely populated town, with 19,234 per km² (almost 15 times as much the national average), followed by Sliema with 10,218 per km². Marsascala and St. Paul's Bay registered the highest population density increases between 1995 and 2005, of over 95%, although the latter experienced a slight decrease in land



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