



LIFE-THIRD COUNTRIES (LIFE-TCY)

PROJECT REFERENCE	
LIFETCY	99 / M / 095
<i>Please indicate the reference as mentioned in the contract.</i>	

PROJECT TITLE
Integrated Management of Specially Protected Coastal Areas in Malta
<i>Please indicate the full title of the project as stipulated in the contract.</i>

SIX-MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT No 3

Period of activities covered by this report	
from: 1 / 2 / 2001	to: 31 / 7 / 2001
<i>The period of activities covered by this report.</i>	

COMMENCEMENT DATE OF THE PROJECT: 1 / 2 / 2000
<i>The date should correspond to the one mentioned in the official letter sent by the beneficiary to the European Commission confirming the official project start date and of the related project expenses.</i>

AREAS OF ACTIVITY		
Technical assistance	Nature Protection	Demonstration action
m	v	m
<i>Please tick the appropriate box.</i>		

BENEFICIARY	
<i>Please indicate the full name and address of the signatory of the contract, i.e. the organisation (entitled to carry out the project under the supervision of the European Commission) and its legal representative.</i>	
Organisation	Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics (ICoD) Foundation for International Studies
Full address	St Paul Street, Valletta VLT 07
Country	Malta
Tel	+ 356 240746
Fax	+ 356 245764
E-mail	m.cassar@icod.org.mt
Legal representative	Mr Anton Micallef, Director
VAT liability	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> If yes, VAT number: 1298 - 5826

PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR	Michelle Cassar
Direct telephone	+ 356 240746
Direct fax	+ 356 245764
E-mail	m.cassar@icod.org.mt
<i>The project co-ordinator should be the person who deals with the operational/technical issues of the project, and the principal contact for the European Commission.</i>	

STATEMENT	
Report prepared by (name, function):	Michelle Cassar, Project Officer
On (date):	27th August 2001
<p>The undersigned certifies that the information provided in Section I, Section II and Section III is true and correct and that the financial report (= Section III) provides an accurate image of the costs which the Beneficiary incurred in relation to the project within the time frame outlined by the contract with the European Commission.</p>	
Signature:	

GENERAL

BENEFICIARY COMMENTS

EXPRESS YOUR VIEWS

This report is not solely intended to provide technical and financial information to the relevant services of the European Commission – it is also a management tool that ideally should be shared by the project team, the stakeholders and the European Commission. Reporting is time-consuming and might be considered as constraining. For this reason, feel free to express your views and comments.

The current project has now been running for 18 months, which represents half of the total project duration. This 3rd progress report served to provide a timely assessment by the project co-ordinators and managers of the project's activities to-date and of the related expenditure, prior to the submission of the interim report for this project.

DISTRIBUTION LIST OF THE PROGRESS REPORT

Please list briefly the name and position of the stakeholders who will receive a copy of this report.

- Rudolf Ragonesi, Managing Director, Gaia Foundation
- The Hon Giovanna Debono, Minister for Gozo
- The Hon Francis Zammit Dimech, Minister for the Environment
- Vincent Cassar, Director General, Works Department, Ministry for the Environment
- Vincent Gauci, Director, Environment Protection Department
- Joe Spiteri Bailey, Director Finance and Administration, Works Department, Ministry for the Environment
- Ambassador Ronald Gallimore, Head, EU Delegation to Malta
- Mayors of relevant local councils

LIFE -THIRD COUNTRIES OFFICE ADDRESS

FORWARDING ADDRESS

For all correspondence, including reports	European Commission Directorate-General Environment, DG ENV – A LIFE-Third Countries Co-ordinator TRMF 5/60 (From mid-July 2000: BU-5) 200, rue de la Loi B-1049 Brussels Belgium Fax: 32 2 296 9557
For express courier delivery, please add:	Until mid-July 2000: Building TRIOMPHE, 174 From mid-July 2000: Building BEAULIEU-5
For clarifications, questions, etc. e-mail address:	Life-tcy@cec.eu.int

REPORTING REQUIREMENT CHECK-LIST

REPORTING REQUIREMENTS

SECTION I	3 copies	required
SECTION II	3 copies	required

SECTION II - annexes	1 copy of related technical reports, and of other dissemination material (leaflets, video, training manuals, etc.)	required
SECTION III	3 copies	required

PROJECT REFERENCE	LIFETCY 99 / M / 095
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FOR COMMISSION USE ONLY

SIX-MONTHLY PROGRESS REPORT No	RECEIVED ON : / / 20
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SECTION I	Approved by LIFE-TCY Office	YES m	NO m
Name:			
Date:			
Comment(s)			
Recommended action(s)			

SECTION II	Approved by LIFE-TCY Office	YES m	NO m
Name:			
Date:			
Comment(s)			
Recommended action(s)			

SECTION III	Commitment reference number:		
	Approved by LIFE-TCY Office	YES m	NO m
Name:			
Date:			
Comment(s)			
Recommended action(s)			

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SECTION I - ADMINISTRATION OF THE CONTRACT

1.1 PROJECT IDENTIFICATION

PROJECT REFERENCE <i>Please indicate the reference as mentioned in the contract.</i>	LIFETCY 99/ M / 095
PROJECT TITLE <i>Please indicate the full title of the project as stipulated in the contract.</i>	Integrated Management of Specially Protected Coastal Areas in Malta
Place(s) and country (countries) where the project is being implemented	Ghajn Tuffieha, Malta and Ramla Bay, Gozo

CONTRACT	
Date of signature of the contract by the EC:	24 / 11 / 1999
Date of signature of the contract by the Beneficiary:	15 / 12 / 1999
Expiry date of the contract (as per Article 4.3):	30 / 06 / 2003

PROJECT DURATION	
Commencement date of the project activities	1 / 02 / 2000
<i>The date should correspond to the one mentioned in the official letter sent by the beneficiary to the European Commission confirming the official project start date and of the related project expenses.</i>	
Initial duration of the project (in months):	36 months
Project activities completion date:	01 / 03 / 2003
<i>This should be the same as mentioned in the contract and in the initially approved project proposal.</i>	

1.2 REPORTING SCHEDULE

REPORTING SCHEDULE			
Six-monthly progress reports	N° 1	to be provided by / provided on	31 / 08 / 2000
	N° 2		01 / 03 / 2001
	N° 3		31 / 08 / 2001
	N° 4		01 / 03 / 2002
	N° 5		31 / 08 / 2002
Interim report	to be provided once disbursements reach	140,000	EURO
Final report	to be provided by	30 / 06 / 2003	
<i>Please refer to the indicative timetable with deadlines for providing reports annexed to the contract.</i>			

1.3 PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR

Full Name	Michelle Cassar
Title, function	Project Officer
Organisation	Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics (ICoD)
Direct telephone	+ 356 240746
Direct fax	+ 356 245764
E-mail	m.cassar@icod.org.mt
<i>The project co-ordinator should be the person who deals with the operational/technical issues of the project, and the principal contact for the European Commission.</i>	

1.4 PROJECT PARTNERS AS CO-FUNDERS

Organisation	Ministry for the Environment, Government of Malta		
Type of organisation	Public V	Private m	NGO m
Telephone	+ 356 231895		
Fax	+ 356 241378		
E-mail	-		
Full name(s) of the person(s) directly involved in the project	Vincent Cassar, Director General, Works Division		
<i>Please add as many frame(s) as there are co-funder(s). Indicate also potential co-funder(s) not initially foreseen</i>			

1.5 PROJECT PARTNERS AS SUB-CONTRACTORS

Organisation or Name of individual	The Gaia Foundation		
Type of organisation	Public m	Private m	NGO V
Telephone	+ 356 581657		
Fax	+ 356 581657		
E-mail	gaia@waldonet.net.mt		
Full name of the person(s) directly involved in the project	Dr Rudolf Ragonesi, Managing Director		
<i>Please add as many frame(s) as there are sub-contractor(s)</i>			

1.6 AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CONTRACT

REVISED DURATION OF THE CONTRACT			
Initial expiry date of the contract:		/	/ 20
Amended expiry date of the contract:		/	/ 20
Request submitted to the EC on:	/	/ 20	Approved by the EC on: / / 20

REVISED DURATION OF THE PROJECT			
Initial duration of the project		in months:	
Amended duration of the project		in months:	
Initial project activities completion date		/	/ 20
Amended project activities completion date		/	/ 20
Request submitted to the EC on:	/	/ 20	Approved by the EC on: / / 20

AMENDED REPORTING SCHEDULE			
Six-monthly progress reports	N° 1	to be provided by / provided on	/ / 20
	N° 2		/ / 20
	N° 3		/ / 20
	N° 4		/ / 20
	N° 5		/ / 20
Interim report	to be provided once disbursements reach		EURO
Final report	to be provided by	/ / 20	
<i>Please refer to the indicative timetable with deadlines for providing reports annexed to the contract.</i>			

SECTION II - TECHNICAL REPORT

Project Reference

LIFETCY 99/ M / 095

PROJECT TITLE

Integrated Management of Specially Protected Coastal Areas in Malta

2.1 PROJECT FICHE (2 pages maximum)

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Please, refer to the information included in the initially approved proposal and in the contract, and to the information on your project including the logframe matrix.

–

PROJECT CONTEXT:

Attaining sustainability is particularly challenging in the case of coastal areas having conservation value, since protection of sensitive or threatened features must be achieved without excluding recreational use and public enjoyment of the site. Hence the need for an integrated approach in order to achieve a commonly acceptable framework for management of such coastal areas.

Malta's coastal area has played a very important role in both the social and economic development of the islands, and is probably the country's most important natural resource. With a total coastal length of less than 200 km, the pressures of development on the Maltese coastline are particularly pronounced. Conflicting uses compete fiercely for valuable space along the short coastline. On mainland Malta, 50% of the coast is classified as "inaccessible" due a combination of physical features such as cliffs, and coastal development. For the island of Gozo, 74% of the coastline is considered to be inaccessible. In this context, urgent action is required to avoid the complete degradation of the natural and man-made environment of coastal areas, and the protection and enhancement of the existing landscape are of vital importance for the islands.

The current project is being co-ordinated by the Euro-Mediterranean Centre on Insular Coastal Dynamics (ICoD), in partnership with the Gaia Foundation, and with the support of the Ministry for the Environment. Working towards the better understanding and integrated management of the coastal zone is a common objective shared by all three organisations.

OVERALL OBJECTIVE(S):

The overall project objective is the implementation of good management practices for the sustainable use of two coastal areas of conservation value in the Maltese islands. Both project sites, Ghajn Tuffieha and Ramla Bay, are recognised at a national level to constitute important landscapes, and are so far largely unspoilt by anthropogenic influence. It is this same "unspoilt" character that attracts the hundreds of visitors to the sites, giving rise to the threat of degradation of their natural beauty and ecological integrity. This project thus aims to reconcile the simultaneous use of these sites for nature protection and for tourism, both domestic and international.

PROJECT PURPOSE (SPECIFIC OBJECTIVE):

The aim of the project is to implement integrated management practices at 2 selected protected coastal areas, in order to promote their sustainable use for tourism and conservation. An innovative approach has been adopted in the institutional setup for management of these protected areas, involving the transfer of responsibility for management of sites on public land from national government to a non-governmental organisation.

EXPECTED RESULTS

The following main results are expected from the implementation of this project at the two project sites:

- Rehabilitation of sites' unique biodiversity and habitats, ensuring their preservation for future generations
- Protection of sites' features of ecological and scientific importance, such as clay slopes, sand dunes, freshwater wetlands, etc.
- Control of erosion of blue clay slopes, thus protecting the landscape value of the entire project sites
- Regulation of recreational uses, and promotion of the public's enjoyment of a pristine landscape via environmentally-friendly activities
- Education of the general public and raising of awareness regarding the importance of coastal conservation
- Promotion of the innovative concept of decentralisation of SPA management, both at a national and regional level

MAIN ACTIVITIES/PHASES:

The project's main activities comprise the following:

- design and implementation of first intervention measures
- on-site regulation enforcement activities
- beach management
- rationalisation of footpath systems and creation of signposted nature trails
- surveying of ecological, geological and hydrological features at sites, including photogrammetric survey
- development and implementation of site-specific management plans, to include conservation profiles and detailed intervention measures
- afforestation work, including setting up of nursery to supply flora for planting
- education and dissemination of information

Project activities have commenced with detailed surveys of the sites to establish the resources present i.e. biodiversity, habitats, geological and hydrological features, and archaeological heritage. Site rehabilitation is being carried out concurrently, along with the formulation of site management guidelines and regulations for the sustainable use of the areas. Monitoring and research activities, in direct support of the implementation of the project's activities at each site, will also be conducted.

Dissemination of the project results is an essential part of the project, and is being implemented through the production of information material for visitors and of information boards on-site. A campaign to promote membership of the NGO managing the sites will be implemented, and access to a wider audience is being provided through the setting-up of a web-page giving detailed information about the sites. The organisation of seminars to present the results and to share the experience gained, both locally and at a regional level, will also take place.

2.2 PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

2.2.1 ACTIVITIES

Ref.	ACTIVITIES	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
1	Rehabilitation of unique biodiversity and habitats	– First planting of native trees and shrubs at the Ramla Bay site was carried out in March 2001, as an initial rehabilitation measure for the degraded blue clay slopes
1.1	Detailed mapping of habitats	• Negotiations were carried out with the Planning Authority regarding identifying information relevant to the Ramla Bay site within their recent ecological and agricultural survey of Gozo
1.2	Inventory of species present; listing of threatened species	
1.3	Assessment of habitat degradation	• Copies of the relevant sections of the new Planning Authority ecological surveys of Gozo have been requested
1.4	Afforestation (native species) of degraded areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formulation of project nursery workplan for the propagation of indigenous and endemic plant species • Propagation at the nursery of native trees and shrubs for the 2001/2002 planting season as follows: Layering of 1,500 plants, 2 species Repotting of 2,185 plants, 12 species Sowing of 6,736 seeds, 20 species Sticking of 712 cuttings, 5 species Lifting of 178 plants, 2 species • Supplementary activities at the nursery included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – placing of gravel in all pots to reduce weed growth and evaporation – construction of a greenhouse for seeding trays – construction of shading to protect young plants from direct sunlight • A total of 352 native trees and shrubs were planted at the Ghajn Tuffieha site in February and March • Initiation of planting programme at the Ramla Bay site, 428 native trees and shrubs (6 different species) planted around the foot of the clay slopes in March • Consultation has been initiated with the relevant experts regarding the planting of indigenous species on the sand dunes at Ramla
2	– Protection of features of ecological, scientific and landscape value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An assistant manager was employed in April 2001 to assist with the implementation of management at the two project sites • Approval by the Environmental Protection Department of the Management Plan for Ramla Bay site was obtained in April 2001 • A draft Conservation Order for the Ghajn Tuffieha site was issued by the Planning Authority. A detailed assessment of this draft was submitted by the project manager, outlining essential amendments to the Conservation Order (Ref. 13)
2.1	Removal of illegal constructions	

2.2	Footpath rationalisation to reduce trampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placement of approved signs at strategic points around the dune area at Ramla Bay, requesting visitors to stay on footpaths in order to minimise trampling of sensitive vegetation • Maintenance and replacement where necessary of footpath signs at Ghajn Tuffieha
2.3	Fencing of disturbed sensitive areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Placing of bollards to prevent vehicular access to degraded area of blue clay slopes at Ramla Bay • Low signs have been placed around the sand dunes at Ramla Bay to discourage trampling of these sensitive areas
2.4	Stabilisation of clay slopes through afforestation programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting of trees and shrubs at Ramla Bay (428 plants in March), around the foot of the clay slopes that are subject to heavy erosion • Continuation of planting programme at Ghajn Tuffieha (352 plants in February and March)
2.5	Access control and restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Warden patrols enforce vehicular access regulations at both sites, both on land and at sea – Strict access regulations have been proposed within the Draft Conservation Order for Ghajn Tuffieha issued by the Planning Authority
2.6	Beach-cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily beach cleaning by hand was carried out during the summer months at both Ghajn Tuffieha and Ramla beaches • Seagrass debris is being removed from the beaches at both sites, for the convenience of bathers • Servicing by boat of inaccessible bins was recommenced in July for the duration of the summer season
2.7	Limiting of expansion of agricultural activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limiting of the use of pesticides and fertilisers in the agricultural areas of the Ghajn Tuffieha site through the implementation of organic farming methods
2.8	Protection of aquifer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress on the permaculture project included the planting of 17 different vegetables and two types of fruit. • A month-by-month planting plan for the above was formulated, and started being implemented in March 2001 • The Persephone Organic Food Club was launched in June 2001 – 15 members are currently supplied with weekly organic produce (waiting list of further 15 members)
3	Regulation of recreational uses	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – The formulation of specific regulations for the Ghajn Tuffieha site is covered by a Draft Conservation Order issued by the Planning Authority. Finalisation of the Conservation Order will include input from the project site managers
3.1	Enforcement of site regulations for recreational users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On-site police presence was introduced at Ramla Bay site to assist with security • The Ramla Bay Police Station was reopened and is being manned by police personnel and wardens • Continued wardening of both Ghajn Tuffieha and Ramla Bay sites, especially at weekends
3.2	Restriction of access to legitimate vehicles only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This was enforced by presence of site wardens and police officers

3.3	Reduction of access points and sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bollards were placed at illegal entry points to sensitive areas (i.e. the beach and protected clay slope areas) at the Ramla Bay site
3.4	Rationalisation of footpath system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintenance of regulatory signs at Ghajn Tuffieha site, and inclusion of footpath system as an integral part of the Conservation Order for this site Planning of mapped routes for short walks at both sites, with markers to explain important features of habitats and biodiversity
3.5	Implementation of waste management system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separate bins for waste separation at source were reinstalled at Ghajn Tuffieha beach, and the waste generated sent for recycling Composting of organic waste at the Elysium Nursery, now taking waste from 3 commercial outlets in the Ghajn Tuffieha area. Resulting compost used for on-site permaculture project Seagrass debris removed from Ghajn Tuffieha beach and a neighbouring beach is also being composted
3.6	Enforcement of beach management guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continued wardening to enforce site regulations Two buoyed lifelines were laid for the first time at Ramla Bay as a safety measure for swimmers due to dangerous currents in rough weather. Location was selected following consultation with surfers. Two buoyed safety lines were reinstated at Ghajn Tuffieha Bay Swimming Zones excluding boats from the bathing areas were demarcated by the Malta Maritime Authority at Ghajn Tuffieha and Ramla Bay, enhancing safety of bathers Compliance by boat owners with the Swimming Zone restrictions were enforced by marine patrols at both sites, with the aid of police officers at weekends Setting up of a first aid post at the Ramla Bay Police Station An renewed application for a permit to provide basic amenities at Ghajn Tuffieha beach, including public conveniences, was submitted to the Planning authority
4	Education and public awareness raising	
4.1	Placement of visitor interpretation boards at vantage points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 3 new information signs were installed at the entrance to the Ramla Bay site. These signs give information about the site and project partners, and highlight site regulations. Information board concerning safety for swimmers was posted in collaboration with the MMA
4.2	Establishment of Nature Trails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Guided tours were regularly carried out at the Ghajn Tuffieha site for groups of German visitors, in collaboration with a German Tour Operator, Studiosus Planning of further routes at both project sites, including meetings with the Malta Tourism Authority to discuss promotion of eco-tourism at the project sites Work has commenced on a route for self-guided tours of the Ghajn Tuffieha site – a group of 4 students from James Madison University in the US carried out a project in May/June to design preliminary information boards for placement around the site
4.3	Holding of educational activities, including beach clean-up campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Introduction of the Adopt a Tree Campaign in April 2001, to be officially launched in Autumn 2001

4.4	Membership drive and fund-raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Membership of the Organic Food Club has reached full capacity, with 15 future members on the waiting list. Membership fees are reinvested in the project.
4.5	Web-page and information leaflets	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The project website was completely upgraded and updated to cover all details of the project. Website can be found at www.projectgaia.org • Information leaflets regarding <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Management plan for Ramla Bay site, outlining key actions and highlighting natural and historical importance of the site (Ref. 14) – Organic agriculture production, as a means of promoting sustainable agricultural practices at the project sites, and as a fundraising activity (Ref. 15)
4.6	Publication of newsletter	
4.7	Recording of educational video	
4.8	Holding of annual seminars	
4.9	Organisation of regional seminar/workshop	
5	Promotion of decentralisation of management of specially protected areas (SPA's)	
5.1	Management by NGO of protected coastal areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued consultation meetings with Local Councils, local police, representatives of the local surfers and snack bar operators in connection with the management of the Ramla site • Continued support for the project by the Ministries for Gozo and for the Environment
5.2	Dissemination of project results and experience to local and regional audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of project experience at two international events, namely: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – DEPANA seminar on "LIFE Project for the sustainable management of La Punta de la Mora in Tarragona, Spain – Globalgarden workshop in Sweden on the implementation of sustainable methods of living • The project managers were consulted by the Ministry responsible for Lands and Local Councils regarding three new treeplanting and biodiversity projects locally

2.2.2 REVIEW OF ANTICIPATED PROBLEM(S) / ASSUMPTION IDENTIFIED DURING THE PROJECT PREPARATION

Points to be included in every report. Please, refer to the information included in the initially approved project proposal including the logframe matrix

Ref.	DESCRIPTION	SOLUTION(S) IDENTIFIED
–	Project objectives Continued Government support and co-operation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close collaboration with the relevant government department (Environment Protection Department, EPD) involving discussions and regular meeting, provision of copies of all reports, consultations on management plans and intervention measures • The above measures have been successful in achieving the signature of the Management Agreement for Ramla Bay, the second project site • The Management Plan for the Ramla Bay site has been approved for immediate implementation by the EPD
	Co-operation of tenants and owners of private sections of project sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions and provision of information regarding the sites, such as providing aerial photos to farmers at the Ramla Bay site, and making available to farmers olive trees for landscaping of agricultural land within the Ghajn Tuffieha site
	Continued public interest in nature protection and coastal conservation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular newspaper articles regarding the project and aspects of site management • Setting up of on-site Visitor Centre (non-LIFE funded) • Provision by wardens of on-site explanations to visitors of project activities • Opening of the tree and plant nursery to the general public for the purpose of visitor education in environmental issues • Information boards at both sites provide explanations of the work being carried out by the project
1	Technical feasibility of intervention measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expert advice sought from relevant consultants prior to finalising management plans and intervention measures • Advance planning of activities to ensure availability of sufficient resources. Eg. Setting up of nursery within project to ensure provision of adequate numbers of suitable trees and shrub species for each planting season
2	Political and public recognition of sites' important features	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close liaison with staff of relevant Ministries, especially the Ministry for the environment, and the Ministry for Gozo • Media campaign about project, placement of information boards on-site and on-site presence of wardens to explain site regulations to visitors • Liaison with Planning Authority regarding demolition of illegal constructions
3	Political and public recognition of project management's authority	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media campaign about project's benefits, information signs, and educational guidance of visitors on-site by wardens • Signature of Management Agreement legally entrusting site management to the Gaia Foundation • Issue of a conservation Order for Ghajn Tuffieha, granting project managers legal powers of enforcement of site regulations
4	Sufficient national conscience on environmental matters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media campaign, including production of information leaflets on various aspects of the project • Educational activities, such as the Adopt-a-Tree campaign • Setting up of Visitor Centre (non-LIFE funded activity)
5	Innovative decentralisation approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Good liaison with relevant government departments and provision to departments and Ministries of all reports on the project • This approach has resulted in signature of Management Agreement for second project site

2.2.3 REVIEW OF PROBLEM(S) ENCOUNTERED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

Points to be included in every report.

Ref.	DESCRIPTION	SOLUTION(S) IDENTIFIED
1.4	Continuing delay in granting of permit for electricity supply to power pumps for essential irrigation of clay slopes afforestation (Ghajn Tuffieha) during summer months	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Purchase and use of petrol-driven pumps as a temporary measure • This delay has also lead to a delay in the projected introduction of renewable energy, namely wind and solar power, at the nursery and support site.
2 2.1	Delay by Planning Authority in issue of Conservation Orders for better protection of sites (draft Conservation Order for Ghajn Tuffieha issued Spring 2001)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued negotiations and discussions with Planning Authority regarding the text of the draft Conservation Order for Ghajn Tuffieha
3.1 3.2 3.6	– Lack of compliance by certain members of the general public with site regulations and management guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regular site patrols by wardens, and employment of plainclothes police officers during summer weekends (busiest time on-site)
3.6	– Administrative delay (16 months from application) by Planning Authority in dealing with Project Managers's request for a permit to provide basic amenities (including toilet facilities) at the Ghajn Tuffieha beach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continued pressure by the Project Managers for this issue to be resolved as promptly as possible
4.1	Vandalism of signs and equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instant replacement of vandalised signs, and continual vigilance by wardens/police officers/watchmen – this is considered to be more cost-effective than 24-hour security • This has proved to be a particular problem at the Ramla Bay site, where the co-operation of the Police has been requested to prevent further acts of vandalism
5.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delay in approval of Management Plan by Environment Protection Department (finally approved in April 2001) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of first intervention measures at Ramla Bay was initiated while waiting for approval of complete Management Plan. • In order to compensate for the effective delay by one year at this site, project activities planned for Ramla Bay will be accelerated to be completed within the remaining project period.

2.3 PROGRESS OF THE PROJECT SINCE ITS START

Please provide here a general overview of the progress made since the start of the project that summarises the information supplied in previous six-monthly progress reports. The summary should be linked to the contents of Chapter 2.2 (Progress of the project during the reporting period).

Ref.	PLANNED ACTIVITIES	STATUS OF IMPLEMENTATION
1	– Rehabilitation of unique biodiversity and habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vegetation survey of previously unmapped area at Rđum Majjiesa (at the Ghajn Tuffieha site) was carried out. Report included recommendations for habitat rehabilitation • Steps were taken to obtain copies of the recently completed surveys of the Ramla Bay area commissioned by the Planning Authority • Propagation and planting of trees and shrubs was a continuing activity at the Ghajn Tuffieha site
1.1	Detailed mapping of habitats	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • habitat maps of the Rđum Majjiesa area at Ghajn Tuffieha were drawn up as part of the vegetation survey of this area • Existing surveys of Ramla Bay area have been requested from Planning Authority
1.2	Inventory of species present, ; listing of threatened species	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Within the ecological survey of Rđum Majjiesa clay slopes, a species list has been drawn up. A number of vulnerable and restricted species, as listed in the Red Data Book for the Maltese Islands, were found. • Information for Ramla Bay also included in above-mentioned PA surveys
1.3	Assessment of habitat degradation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A further aerial survey of the Ghajn Tuffieha site, for the purposes of monitoring vegetation recovery • The Vegetation Survey of the Rđum Majjiesa area identifies areas of degraded habitats and provides recommendations for their rehabilitation • Recent aerial photographs of the Ramla Bay area have been obtained for use in monitoring habitat degradation
1.4	Afforestation (native species) of degraded areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Malta's first nursery for indigenous trees and shrubs, accommodating up to 20,000 saplings, has been set up.. Activities carried out at the nursery: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Repair and rehabilitation work on walls and security fencing, and landscaping using indigenous trees and shrubs – Installation of fire-fighting system for protection of nursery – Laying of channels for diversion of rainfall runoff into existing reservoir for irrigation – Collection of sediment deposited in reservoirs by runoff and utilisation for planting and potting – Purchase of thousands of pots and seedling trays, peat and soil – Collection of seeds and cuttings for spring propagation, including seeds of rare indigenous species never previously propagated – Propagation of 3,440 new trees and shrubs for planting in 2001/2002 season – Purchase of plants to make up for initial shortfall during nursery's first year – Under the planting programme at the Ghajn Tuffieha site, between February 2000 and January 2001, a total of 3322 indigenous trees and shrubs were planted

1.4 (cont.)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fire-fighting system was laid on the clay slopes, as well as the level-1 protected areas of the site, connected to an 8,000 litre reservoir. • The drip irrigation system was extended to cover all new plants (using 63mm main pipes and 16mm secondary pipes, irrigation rate 4 litres per hour)
2	– Protection of features of ecological, scientific and landscape value	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First draft of a management Plan for Rđum Majjiesa area • Submission of Management plan for Ramla Bay site for approval by the Environment Protection Department (EPD) • Approval was obtained for immediate implementation of first intervention measures at the Ramla Bay site
2.1	Removal of illegal constructions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussions with PA regarding the rehabilitation of the foreshore by removal of illegal structures • Demolition of an illegal brick wall on the Golden Bay Headland was carried out by the Planning Authority
2.2	Footpath rationalisation to reduce trampling	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • wooden signs indicating the accepted footpaths were installed at the Ghajn Tuffieha site, and were constantly maintained • Approval of proposed footpath signs by EPD as part of first intervention measures at Ramla Bay site
2.3	Fencing of disturbed sensitive areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recommendations for fencing of sensitive dune areas were submitted to the EPD and approved as part of the management plan for the Ramla Bay site
2.4	Stabilisation of clay slopes through afforestation programme	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting of indigenous trees and shrubs on the clay slopes east of Ghajn Tuffieha bay • Purchase of a number of necessary texts on local flora and permaculture methods • Laying of irrigation system covering the new areas of vegetation resulting from the current planting programme at the Ghajn Tuffieha site
2.5	Access control and restrictions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planting across areas of unauthorised access from threatened clay slopes to Ghajn Tuffieha beach, and maintenance of signs restricting access • Access control to the Ghajn Tuffieha clay slopes from road by unauthorised vehicles by installation of a padlocked gate • Closing of access to unauthorised vehicles at Ramla Bay, as a first intervention measure • Land patrols by site wardens effectively prevents unauthorised activities such as motorcycle offroading on the clay slopes at Ghajn Tuffieha
2.6	Beach-cleaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Daily beach cleaning by hand was implemented during the summer months (June to September) at the Ghajn Tuffieha and Ramla site • Regular removal and composting of <i>Posidonia</i> seagrass debris • Placement and servicing by boat of bins in swimming areas inaccessible to vehicles • Negotiations with local councils re. details of a beach cleaning management plan, including waste separation, at Ramla Bay
2.7	Limiting of expansion of agricultural activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initiation of Malta's first permaculture project on a suitable site - the planting of olive trees as a first stage of agriculture, and pine trees along the perimeter as a windbreak
2.7 (cont.)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Implementation of second stage of permaculture project: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Planting of clover as a green compost - Tilling of fields and removal of stones • Production of permaculture report on sustainable agriculture • Preliminary work on assembling a "pharmacy" of organic pesticides as recommended by the report • Purchase of 650 olive trees of Italian origin, for planting by farmers in order to enhance traditional landscape

2.8	Protection of aquifer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organic nature of permaculture at Ghajn Tuffieha is contributing to the protection of the aquifer from contamination by fertilisers and pesticides Discussions with local farmers at Ghajn Tuffieha regarding reducing their use of fertilisers and pesticides. Farmers in the Majjiesa area already practise mainly organic methods Further discussions with farmers regarding the reduction of fertiliser and pesticide use in the area
3	Regulation of recreational uses	
3.1	Enforcement of site regulations for recreational users	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ghajn Tuffieha site was regularly patrolled by wardens, who enforce regulations concerning camping, offroading, opens fires and littering. Presence of plain clothes policeman at Ghajn Tuffieha site at the weekends; duties include enforcement support of wardens; police presence also discourages theft and vandalism 2 site wardens in full-time employment
3.2	Restriction of access to legitimate vehicles only	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Installation of a padlocked gate restricting access to clay slopes and beach at Ghajn Tuffieha Demarcation of a boat lane into Ghajn Tuffieha to guide boats away from the main swimming areas. This was enforced by sea patrols by the site wardens, supported by the plain clothes police officer at weekends
3.3	Reduction of access points and sites	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restriction of access to Ghajn Tuffieha beach to two signposted paths; servicing and replacement, where necessary, of regulatory signs
3.4	Rationalisation of footpath system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Servicing and replacement of regulatory signs at Ghajn Tuffieha Identification of footpath system to be used at Ramla Bay, especially in the sensitive dune area
3.5	Implementation of waste management system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Separation at source for recycling of waste from Ghajn Tuffieha beach was introduced. Composting of some organic waste on site, including waste from neighbouring restaurant
3.6	Enforcement of beach management guidelines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> enforcement of site regulations by wardens, aided by the presence at weekends of a plainclothes police officer Installation of 3 buoyed lifelines at Ghajn Tuffieha Bay as a safety measure for swimmers due to dangerous underwater currents in rough weather during the summer. The lines were removed in December at the end of the bathing season Demarcation of a boat lane , and enforcement of maritime regulations excluding boats from entering the main swimming areas A first aid post was set up on site
4	Education and public awareness raising	
4.1	Placement of visitor interpretation boards at vantage points	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> placement of small information boards on fire hazard zones, beach safety, site regulations and waste separation guidelines. Servicing and replacement when necessary
4.2	Establishment of Nature Trails	
4.3	Holding of educational activities, including beach clean-up campaigns	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Call for publicity information from local ngo's for display on-site
4.4	Membership drive and fund-raising	
4.5	Web-page and information leaflet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Setting up, maintenance and updating of website giving access to information about the project, including downloadable text of all professional studies and interim reports
4.6	Publication of newsletter	
4.7	Recording of educational video	
4.8	Holding of annual seminars	
4.9	Organisation of regional seminar/workshop	

5	Promotion of decentralisation of management of specially protected areas (SPA's)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The signature of the Management Agreement for the Ramla Bay site signified a transfer of responsibility for its management from government to the Gaia Foundation ngo
5.1	Management by NGO of protected coastal areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The management contract for the Ramla Bay site was signed in November 2000, by the legal representatives of the Environment Protection Department and the Gaia Foundation. Discussions are continuing with the Ministry for Education, currently responsible for the Rđum Majjiesa area adjacent to Ghajn Tuffieha, to hand over management for this land through the signing of a management agreement
5.2	Dissemination of project results and experience to local and regional audience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Inauguration of official launch of the project in March 2000, by the Minister for the Environment. Good media coverage of the project's planned activities, and of the LIFE programme all technical reports produced by the project copied to the Environment Protection Department (EPD) Information on the project was featured in the e-mail newsletter of the EPD

2.4 PROJECT PLANNING FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

Short description of the activities to be carried out during the next 6-month period. Please, use the same format as under Chapter 2.2.1.

Ref.	Ref. for table 2.5	ACTIVITIES	DESCRIPTION/COMMENTS
2.2	A	Placing of wooden posts with small information signs, along the boundaries of the protected dune area at Ramla Bay	– This is a measure to reduce trampling of sensitive areas
2.4	B	Propagation of trees and shrubs at the project nursery	– According to seasonal planting plan
2.4	C	Planting of a minimum of 1500 trees and shrubs at the project sites	– To be provided from stock propagated at nursery
2.4	D	Continued attempts to secure electricity supply for the nursery and project support centre at Ghajn Tuffieha	– Initial application pending from February 2000
2.5 3.1	E	Sea patrols to enforce safety and maritime regulations at the project sites, in collaboration with the police	– For increased safety of bathers
2.5 3.1 3.2 3.3	F	Stepping up of security at the Ramla Bay site through collaboration with the local Police	– Increased security will enhance enforcement of site regulations and safety of visitors, as well as reducing vandalism on-site
2.5 3.1 3.2	G	Increased wardening at the Ramla Bay site to enforce access and offroading regulations on the sand dune and beach areas as well as the degraded clay slopes	– This has been a major challenge since the approval of the management plan in April 2001
2.6 3.5	H	Collection from beach (Ghajn Tuffieha) and composting of seagrass debris for fertiliser	– Compost used for organic farming exercise
2.7	I	Site visit by Ministers for the Environment and Gozo to the Ramla Bay site	– Official launch of the ecological management plan for this area
2.7	J	Launch of campaign for encouragement of olive tree growth in vicinity of Ghajn Tuffieha	– Pilot project for agroforestry
2.7	K	Upgrading of the Organic Food Club to full capacity	– Projected capacity to reach 40 members
2.7 2.8	L	Liason with local farmers regarding adoption of organic production methods	– Potential suppliers to Organic Food Club
3.5	M	Maintenance and continued operation of separated waste system at Ghajn Tuffieha	– Includes composting of organic wastes

3.6	N	Maintenance of safety lifelines at the project sites' beaches	– For the assistance of bathers during rough weather
3.6	O	Further attempts to secure Planning Authority permits for basic amenities (including toilets) at Ghajn Tuffieha	– Initial application pending from April 1999
4.1	P	Production of information boards for the nursery explaining the project's activities at Ghajn Tuffieha	– As an aid to self-guided tours of the project site
4.2	Q	Preparatory work on the publication of a nature trail map and brochure for the project sites	– In collaboration with the Malta Tourism Authority
4.3	R	Official launch of the Adopt-a-Tree Campaign	– To coincide with the start of the planting season
4.5	S	Updating of the project's website to include all reports, surveys and information	– Continuous activity
4.5	T	Publication of 3 new information brochures on general project activities, biodiversity, olive tree growth	-
5.1	U	Official site visit by Ministry of Environment officials and other project stakeholders to the project nursery	– To promote government support of the project

2.5 PROJECT ACTIVITY SCHEDULE FOR THE NEXT PERIOD

Please indicate the sequence of the activities to be carried out during the next 6-month period. Please, use the arrows to illustrate the duration, logical sequence, and possible links between activities.

Ref to table 2.4	ACTIVITIES	SCHEDULE (Months 1-6)					
		1	2	3	4	5	6
A	Placing of wooden posts with small information signs, along the boundaries of the protected dune area at Ramla Bay	←→					
B	Propagation of trees and shrubs at the project nursery	←→					
C	Planting of a minimum of 1500 trees and shrubs at the project sites		←→				
D	Continued attempts to secure electricity supply for the nursery and project support centre at Ghajn Tuffieha	←→					
E	Sea patrols to enforce safety and maritime regulations at the project sites, in collaboration with the police	←→					
F	Stepping up of security at the Ramla Bay site through collaboration with the local Police	←→					
G	Increased wardening at the Ramla Bay site to enforce access and offroading regulations on the sand dune and beach areas as well as the degraded clay slopes	←→					
H	Collection from beach (Ghajn Tuffieha) and composting of seagrass debris for fertiliser	←→					
I	Site visit by Ministers for the Environment and Gozo to the Ramla Bay site	←→					
J	Launch of campaign for encouragement of olive tree growth in vicinity of Ghajn Tuffieha				←→		
K	Upgrading of the Organic Food Club to full capacity		←→				
L	Liason with local farmers regarding adoption of organic production methods			←→			
M	Maintenance and continued operation of separated waste system at Ghajn Tuffieha	←→					
N	Maintenance of safety lifelines at the project sites' beaches	←→					
O	Further attempts to secure Planning Authority permits for basic amenities (including toilets) at Ghajn Tuffieha	←→					
P	Production of information boards for the nursery explaining the project's activities at Ghajn Tuffieha				←→		
Q	Preparatory work on the publication of a nature trail map and brochure for the project sites	←→					
R	Official launch of the Adopt-a-Tree Campaign			←→			

S	Updating of the project's website to include all reports, surveys and information							
T	Publication of 3 new information brochures on general project activities, biodiversity, olive tree growth							
U	Official site visit by Ministry of Environment officials and other project stakeholders to the project nursery							

2.6 LIST OF REPORTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS PRODUCED BY THE PROJECT

Ref.	Title / Description	Date	Already provided	Attached
1	Programme of the Official Project Launch	11 April 2000	yes	no
2	DRAFT Vegetation Survey of Rdum il-Majjiesa, Ghajn Tuffieha	May 2000	yes	no
3	DRAFT Management Plan for Ramla Bay, Gozo	June 2000	yes	no
4	DRAFT Management Plan for Rdum Majjiesa, Ghajn Tuffieha	July 2000	yes	no
5	DRAFT Management Agreement for Ramla Bay, Gozo	July 2000	yes	no
6	List of trees and shrubs planted Autumn 99 – Spring 2000	28 Aug 2000	yes	no
7	Gaia Foundation Annual Report 2000 (includes report summary)	April 2000	yes	no
8	Management Agreement for Ramla Bay, Gozo	December 2000	yes	no
9	Management Plan for Ramla Bay, Gozo	November 2000	yes	no
10	Urgent Conservation Measures for Ramla Bay, Gozo	December 2000	yes	no
11	Sustainable Agriculture (Permaculture) Report	Jan 2001	yes	no
12	Gaia Foundation Progress Report, August 2000 – January 2001	Feb 2001	yes	no
13	Draft Conservation Order for Ghajn Tuffieha, with comments by the Gaia Foundation	June 2001	no	yes
14	Information leaflet – Management Plan for Ir-Ramla, Gozo	July 2001	no	yes
15	Information leaflet – Persephone Organic Food Club	July 2001	no	yes

If you have

- *organised an event (seminar, training, study tour, etc.),*
- *produced, disseminated, published material and documents for an event (e.g. brochures, video, pictures, booklets, etc.),*

please include a copy / a set of

- *any material and documents already produced, disseminated or published,*
- *the agenda or the programme of the event, the list of participants (+ tel. no), etc.*

Please add any relevant annexes to the report.

NB Please, refer to the contract concerning the acknowledgement of the support given by the European Commission including the use of the LIFE logo.

SECTION III - FINANCIAL REPORT

Project Reference

LIFETCY 99/ M / 095

3.1 FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Please use the following table to provide information on the status of project expenditure compared with the budget initially estimated (as stipulated in **Annex II of the contract**).

The column entitled "Total actual project costs to date" should mention the project's actual expenses incurred from the beginning of the project to date.

Annex III of the contract provides relevant financial guidelines and information.

	EURO	%
Total cost of the project	378,871.29	100
Total eligible cost of the project	378,871.29	100
LIFE maximum assistance	189,441.03	50
Minimum threshold for advancing the intermediate payment	140,000.00	37

This section should be completed following the information provided in Annex II of the contract.

Payment received to date:	Type <i>(please, specify)</i>	Date	Amount <i>(specify currency)</i>	Exchange rate	Amount in EURO
	ADVANCE	17/02/2000	LM 30,892.58	2.4529	75,776.41
	<i>Interim 1</i>				
	<i>Final</i>				

INITIALLY ESTIMATED BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL AND ELIGIBLE COSTS

CATEGORIES OF EXPENDITURE	Total cost in EURO <i>(as per annex II of the contract)</i>	Total eligible cost in EURO <i>(as per annex II of the contract)</i>
1. Personnel	192,906.04	192,906.04
2. Travel	2,393.38	2,393.38
3. External assistance	59,834.38	59,834.38
4. Durable equipment***	38,294.00	38,294.00
4.1 Infrastructure	0.00	0.00
4.2 Equipment***	0.00	0.00
4.3 Prototype	38,294.00	38,294.00
4.4 Non eligible	0.00	0.00

5.	Consumables	38,097.31	38,097.31
6.	Publications	21,540.38	21,540.38
7.	Other costs	26,805.80	26,805.80
TOTAL		378,871.29	378,871.29

This section should be completed following the information provided in Annex II of the contract

Bank account number	13224723011
Bank details (full name, address)	Bank of Valletta plc, Palace Square, Valletta, MALTA
Opened in the name of	Foundation for International Studies

3.2 AMENDMENT(S) TO THE CONTRACT, IF RELEVANT

AMENDED ESTIMATED BREAKDOWN OF TOTAL AND ELIGIBLE COSTS				
CATEGORIES OF EXPENDITURE	Total cost in EURO		Total eligible cost in EURO	
	(as per amended annex II of the contract)		(as per amended annex II of the contract)	
1. Personnel				
2. Travel				
3. External assistance				
4. Durable equipment***				
4.1 Infrastructure		0.00		0.00
4.2 Equipment***				
4.3 Prototype				
4.4 Non eligible		0.00		0.00
5. Consumables				
6. Publications				
7. Other costs				
TOTAL				
Request submitted to the EC on:				/ / 20
Approved by the EC on:				/ / 20

3.3 SUMMARY OF THE EXPENDITURE INCURRED FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROJECT SINCE ITS START - BREAKDOWN PER CATEGORIES (BPC)

Categories of expenditure	Total cost in EURO (as per annex II of the contract)	Total eligible cost in EURO (as per annex II of the contract)	Total project cost incurred to date in EURO	Total actual project costs to date in EURO		
				actually incurred by the Beneficiary *		actually incurred by the project partner(s) ** (= other sources of financing)
				incurred with LIFE contribution	incurred with the Beneficiary's own contribution	
1. Personnel	192,906.04	192,906.04	90,920.04	40,250.48	50,669.56	
2. Travel	2,393.38	2,393.38	0	0	0	
3. External assistance	59,834.38	59,834.38	20,159.11	1,872.83	18,286.28	
4. Durable equipment***						
4.1 Infrastructure	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
4.2 Equipment***	0.00	0.00				
4.3 Prototype	38,294.00	38,294.00	40,650.07	24,792.71	15,857.36	
4.4 Non eligible	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
5. Consumables	37,097.31	37,097.31	16,315.83	5,154.01	11,161.82	
6. Publications	21,540.38	21,540.38	1,410.76	951.62	459.14	
7. Other costs	26,805.80	26,805.80	29,740.26	4,095.24	25,645.02	
TOTAL in EURO	378,871.29	378,871.29	199,196.06	77,116.89	122,079.17	
			A =	B +	C +	D

The expenditure concerns the period from: 1/2/2000 to: 31/7/2001

- * and recorded in the legal accounting of the beneficiary.
- ** other project expenses which are **not recorded** in the accounting of the beneficiary (= **supported by** third parties/**project partners** but **not reimbursed by the beneficiary**).
- Contributions in kind and voluntary work are regarded as non eligible and should therefore be indicated for information purposes only and in brackets.
- *** subject to linear depreciation over a period of 5 years.

IMPORTANT

Please note that in view of the interim report and related interim payment request, the total amount without VAT and/or the total amount with non-recoverable VAT

should be provided, depending whether the beneficiary has provided the proof that VAT is not recoverable and therefore regarded as an eligible cost.