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PRESS RELEASE 25th June 2009 Intensive Clean-up efforts at Il-Majjistral Nature and History Park With the help of HSBC, BAXTER and Tarxien Scout Group

As part of its continued efforts to rehabilitate and restore the area of II-Majjistral Nature and History Park, located in Mellieħa, the Heritage Parks Federation have been holding a number of clean-ups in various parts of the protected area. Over the past weeks, 3 major clean-ups were undertaken by the Park management with the tireless help of volunteers who gave their time to help improve the areas which have been subject to constant littering for years. The volunteers, numbering to about a 100, included employees from HSBC and BAXTER as well as young cubs from the Tarxien Scout group.

Over 300 large garbage bags of waste were collected from areas close to Manikata and Anchor Bay as well as along ix-Xaghra l-Hamra. The items included hundreds of shotgun cartridges, infinite pieces of glass, tins, bottles and large pieces of scrapped waste including cookers and more. The park managers and staff would like to thank Mellieha Local Council, the Cleansing Serrvice Department and the Ministry for Resources and Rural Affairs for helping out with the events and a special thanks to all the volunteers who have helped over the past two years ever since the park was set up. <u>As thanks the park will be offering free guided walks to the volunteers to experience the beauty of the park in a more relaxed manner.</u>

The Heritage Parks Federation would like to call upon the public and all users of the area to respect the countryside and to keep disturbance at a minimum when visiting the park. Littering is illegal anywhere and the park is being monitored by a park ranger together with the police, as well as by security cameras affixed on site. A simple country code is to be respected in the park which also includes the protected sandy beach of Golden Bay:

- Refrain from collecting or causing harm to any specimens of flora, fauna, geological items such as fossils and stalactities or archaoological artefacts.
- Tread lightly and avoid disturbance
- Avoid causing noise and light pollution
- Do not dispose of any waste in the countryside or sea
- Do not light fires
- Keep to the paths
- Report any grass fires or emergencies on 112
- Enjoy the outdoors with respect.

Anyone wishing to volunteer or to know more about the park can visit <u>www.majjistral.org</u>, phone on 21521291 or email <u>info@majjistral.org</u>

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Some of the rubbish collected

Tarxien Scout Group



HSBC STAFF



BAXTER STAFF