



DEPARTMENT FOR CURRICULUM MANAGEMENT AND E-LEARNING

LETTER CIRCULAR

Information: X **Date:** 13th February 2008
Action Required: X **Ref:** DCM 22/2008
To: All Heads of School (State & Non-State) and Sections
Arbor Day School Representatives
From: Dr Charles F. Grech Ph.D. **Tel:** 2590 4110 / 2590 4130
Vice-Chairman **Fax:** 2590 4212
School Arbor Committee **E-mail:** cf.grech@onvol.net
Subject: Arbor Day Activity in Gozo 2008

The School Arbor Committee (SAC) would like to inform all schools and especially those in Gozo that following the postponement of the tree planting event that was due to be held at Dwejra Gozo on Friday 18th January this will now be held on **Wednesday 27th February 2008**.

This tree planting event is part of the celebrations of National Forest Week and National Arbor Day 2008 and is being organised in conjunction with Nature Trust (Malta) as an Ekoskola initiative within the Ekoskola Programme.

Nature Trust (Malta) is slowly rehabilitating the vegetation of the Dwejra Coastal Nature Park in Gozo. This tree planting activity will be the second tree planting activity on site and will involve the planting of at least a hundred plants. These plants will include the African Tamarisk (Maltese; Bruka ta' Malta, Latin; *Tamarix africana*) a coastal tree and the Maltese Everlasting, (Malt; Sempreviva ta' Ghawdex, Lat; *Helicrisum melitense*) a coastal shrub.

Planting will take place in the car park flowerbeds constructed by NT and behind a line of rubble wall that was constructed in the autumn of 2005. This line of African tamarisk will act as a windbreak and provide shelter from salt laden seaborne winds. This windbreak will then allow for future planting on the lee side of the windbreak as well as encourage natural regeneration of the site.

Parties of students are to be in the square near St Anne's Chapel at 10:00hrs. It is expected that the activity should be over by 12:15hrs.

More information on this site could be found in the Nature Trust (Malta) website, clicking on nature reserves, Dwejra Life.

Notification of attendance

Nature Trust (Malta) will also be contacting the schools in Gozo to make any necessary arrangements. Should any schools from Malta wish to participate they should contact Nature Trust at info@naturetrustmalta.org.

Schools are kindly asked to ensure that students will be properly clothed for these activities. Good shoes and rainproof jackets are recommended for overcast days. As the area is mostly treeless, wind-chill is probable so students should wear warm jackets to keep out the cold.

Schools are also encouraged to ask their students/pupils to bring their cameras to the activities so that the students would be able to photograph trees and plants which will be identified on site.

Raymond J. Camilleri
Director