

A Framework for the assessment of Sustainability in the Built Environment: The Case of Malta as an Island State

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The aim of the study is to develop a framework for the assessment of sustainability, based on specific indicator groups. The framework is intended to provide a perspective on the critical factors affecting sustainability in Malta as an Island State, with particular reference to the built environment and environmental sustainability. The objective is to assess the effectiveness of actions that may reduce greenhouse gas emissions [GHG] and improve the overall built environment. The framework served as the basis for the research methodology, referring to a qualitative and quantitative survey, based on groups of indicators which include: built environment, transport, resource depletion, waste management, air quality, water use & quality and energy & renewables. The survey was designed to provide a bottom-up view of GHG reduction actions to complement top-down policies and action plans developed by national authorities and large non-government organizations. Key stakeholder groups in the building industry were identified including architects and engineers, project managers, manufactures of building products, developers, contractors, building owners, users and other stakeholders. The research objective is to propose a framework for assessment of sustainability and on the basis of this, assess the relative importance of the indicator groups at the local level, with reference to Malta as an Island state. The outcomes of the survey are analysed in order to assess the critical parameters for a sustainable built environment. The results support also the formulation of multiple actions and a policy framework for green buildings and sustainable urban areas.