

**Farmhouse ECO certification criteria**  
***Guidelines and indicators for applicants & auditors***

**Section 1: Management System**

<b>Code</b>	101
<b>Criterion</b>	The management and employees received training on environmental good practice.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Management and employees are to receive training on environmental good practice. Training could be organised in-house, through a government entity, NGO or private company.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	Proof of training such as attendance sheet/s, training programme, photos of training session, etc.

<b>Code</b>	102
<b>Criterion</b>	The management implements a long-term environmental management system that is suitable to the scope of its operations. This includes having in place a written policy with specific goals and a programme for the monitoring of these goals so that measures to reduce the impact on the environment are implemented.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	A long-term environmental management system in a form of a written policy is in place.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	Written policy (document).

<b>Code</b>	103
<b>Criterion</b>	The property has a designated person for the environmental management system.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	A person is to be appointed to be responsible for the environmental management system. This person may be the eco coordinator.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	Written document signed by person being appointed.

<b>Code</b>	104
<b>Criterion</b>	The organisation has participated in or organised environmental initiatives or initiatives for social and infrastructure community development during the last two years (where applicable).
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Organisation has participated or in the process of organising

	environmental initiatives or social and infrastructure community development during the duration of the certification period. This may include participating in activities with the local council, NGOs or the church amongst others.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	Proof of such initiatives. Proof may be photos taken, programmes, receipts etc. In the case of an organisation still in the process of organising or participating one is to provide brief plans of such activities.

## **Section 2: Waste Management**

<b>Code</b>	201
<b>Criterion</b>	The property has quantitative goals to minimise waste that is not re-used or recycled.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	A number of goals are in place to minimise waste which is not reusable or recycled.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	Written document which consists of these said goals – this may be part of the policy.

<b>Code</b>	202
<b>Criterion</b>	The property provides appropriate bins or bags for the recycling of waste and proper instructions on waste separation for the following: glass, plastic, paper and metal.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Appropriate bins/bags are provided for recycling. Proper instructions for recycling are also provided in English (as a minimum).
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site check of such bins/bags and instructions. Instructions should include which bin/bag is to be used for that particular material and also date of collection.

<b>Code</b>	203
<b>Criterion</b>	The property recycles batteries in accordance with current environmental legislation.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Batteries are recycled according to Regulation 15 (duties of end-users of batteries & accumulators), under LN 55 of 2010 Waste Management (Waste Batteries & Accumulators) Regulations, 2010.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site check of the battery disposal container and any receipts from authorised collector as proof of proper disposal (if available).

<b>Code</b>	204
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<b>Criterion</b>	The property is guaranteeing the final destination of goods with CFC or similar in accordance with current environmental legislation.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	CFC or similar goods/appliances are being disposed of according to law. Chapter 504 Environment and Development Planning Act, L.N. 184 of 2011 – The Waste Regulations, 2011 <i>Regulation 12. (5) No person shall deposit any waste except in a waste management facility which is authorised to receive that waste by virtue of a permit.</i>
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	Receipt/s given by WasteServ personnel at the Civic Amenity Site.

<b>Code</b>	205
<b>Criterion</b>	The property is disposing of hazardous waste correctly.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Hazardous waste is being disposed off according to law at designated sites. Chapter 504 Environment and Development Planning Act, L.N. 184 of 2011 – The Waste Regulations, 2011 <i>Regulation 12. (5) No person shall deposit any waste except in a waste management facility which is authorised to receive that waste by virtue of a permit.</i>
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	Receipt/s given by WasteServ personnel at the Civic Amenity Site.

<b>Code</b>	206
<b>Criterion</b>	The property provides appropriate bins or bags for the recycling of organic waste.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Appropriate bins are provided for the recycling of organic waste.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such bins (e.g. compost bin).

<b>Code</b>	207
<b>Criterion</b>	The property is using soap and shampoo dispenser containers in bathrooms.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Soap and shampoo dispensers are installed and functional.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such dispensers.

<b>Code</b>	208
<b>Criterion</b>	The property buys products in bulk to reduce packaging waste.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Bulk-buying is taking place.

<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of store/s or invoice/receipts documents.
<b>Code</b>	209
<b>Criterion</b>	A system is in place to reuse discarded bed sheets and towels for alternate purposes.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Discarded bed sheets and towels are being reused.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such sheets/towels being re-used (such as for cleaning purposes).

### **Section 3: Purchasing**

<b>Code</b>	301
<b>Criterion</b>	A purchasing policy is in place which favours eco-friendly products for building materials, capital goods, food and consumables.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	A purchasing policy favouring eco-friendly products in a form of a written policy.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	Written policy (document).

<b>Code</b>	302
<b>Criterion</b>	The property is reducing or eliminating corrosive cleaning products, phosphate and bleaching detergents.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Corrosive cleaning products, phosphate and bleaching detergents are being reduced or eliminated.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such cleaning products and detergents and/or invoices/receipts documents.

<b>Code</b>	303
<b>Criterion</b>	The property is reducing or replacing pesticides and other harmful substances (e.g. solvent based paints).
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Pesticides and other harmful substances are being reduced or eliminated.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of non-toxic substitutes (biological controls) and cultivation alternatives or invoices/receipts documents. On-site check of store for other harmful substances products.

<b>Code</b>	304
<b>Criterion</b>	The management is using white goods with clean technology and has a target that 50% of all white goods will be A-rated by end 2015 and that 100% will be A-rated by end 2017.

<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Management is using A-class (or better) major appliances (white goods) including refrigeration, cooking, washing, cooling and TV and has a target that such usage will reach 50% of all white goods by end of 2015 and 100% by end of 2017.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of white goods or invoices/receipts documents.

<b>Code</b>	305
<b>Criterion</b>	CFC products and similar are being replaced by more ecological ones.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Ecological products are phasing out CFC products or similar.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such products or invoices/receipts documents.

<b>Code</b>	306
<b>Criterion</b>	The property is using local goods and services.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Some local goods and services are used by the property. Examples of local goods may include: locally manufactured furniture, woven rugs etc. Examples of local services may include: maintenance services, cleaning services, pest control services etc.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of local goods and invoices/receipts for local services.

<b>Code</b>	307
<b>Criterion</b>	The property is using biodegradable cleaning products.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Biodegradable cleaning products are used (i.e. cleaning products which DO NOT include petroleum-based surfactants or EDTA).
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such cleaning products depicting the sign or word 'biodegradable'.

<b>Code</b>	308
<b>Criterion</b>	The property is using fair-trade goods or services.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Fair-trade goods or services are used by the property. Goods carrying the fair-trade symbol and services used are provided by a registered licensed company.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of goods carrying the fair-trade symbol and invoices/receipts for services offered by a registered licensed company.

<b>Code</b>	309
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<b>Criterion</b>	Recycled or ecological paper (e.g. FSC) is used for promotional material (brochures).
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Promotional material (such as brochures) is printed on recycled or ecological paper.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such material where the 'recycled' or 'ecological' symbol is depicted. In absence of such a symbol/mark, the manufacturer's original packaging of the paper is to be requested.

<b>Code</b>	310
<b>Criterion</b>	The property is using recycled or ecological paper for toilet rolls and/or hand towels.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Toilet rolls and/or hand towels are made of recycled or ecological paper.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of the packaging of such toilet rolls and/or hand towels where the 'recycled' or 'ecological' symbol is depicted. In absence of such a symbol/mark, a declaration confirming so is to be provided by the manufacturer.

#### **Section 4: Control of Chemicals**

<b>Code</b>	401
<b>Criterion</b>	The property is storing hazardous chemicals and cleaning products correctly (where applicable).
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	All hazardous chemicals and cleaning products are stored correctly.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of storage of such hazardous chemicals and cleaning products which may include chlorine (whether in liquid form or tablets), bleaches and other cleaning products. If products are not stored on site the criterion is not applicable.

<b>Code</b>	402
<b>Criterion</b>	Chlorine levels in swimming pools are monitored regularly (approximately twice weekly).
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Regular (approx. twice weekly) checks are conducted for the monitoring of chlorine levels in swimming pool/s.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	Signed record sheets of chlorine levels in swimming pool/s.

<b>Code</b>	403
<b>Criterion</b>	The air-conditioning system is monitored regularly for effective control of

	leaks (where applicable).
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Regular monitoring and checks are conducted on the air-conditioning system for effective control of leaks. Effective control of leaks is to be interpreted more rigorously when there is a central A/C system rather than stand-alone A/C units. However both systems are to be serviced regularly.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	Signed record sheets of inspections and receipts of gas supplier/service are to be kept.

<b>Code</b>	404
<b>Criterion</b>	Records are kept on the chemical products used in pest control.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Chemical products used for pest control are recorded.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	Signed record sheets of such chemical products used.

<b>Code</b>	405
<b>Criterion</b>	A system is in place to reduce or eliminate Chlorine in swimming pools (e.g. ionizers, salt water chlorination, etc).
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Chlorine in swimming pools are being reduced or eliminated by other alternatives such as ionizers, salt water chlorination etc.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of Chlorine level readings or invoices/receipts documents.

### **Section 5: Energy**

<b>Code</b>	501
<b>Criterion</b>	Energy efficient lighting products are in place (at least 50% of lights in each property).
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	A minimum of 50% of the lights in the property are energy efficient.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of lights. Energy efficient lighting includes compact florescent lighting and LEDs.

<b>Code</b>	502
<b>Criterion</b>	Automatic controls are used for internal illumination. (If the lighting is not switched off automatically, guests must have highly visible information reminding them to switch off all lights before leaving the property).
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Internal lighting is controlled by automatic controls. (In the case that

	lights are not switched off automatically, highly visible signs reminding guests to switch off all lights before leaving the property must be installed).
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of either automatic controls or visible signs.

<b>Code</b>	503
<b>Criterion</b>	Automatic controls are used for the air-conditioning system in room windows and doors. (If the A/C is not switched off automatically, guests must have highly visible information reminding them to switch off the air conditioning before opening the windows/doors).
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	The air-conditioning system in room windows and doors has automatic controls. (In case the A/C is not switched off automatically, highly visible signs reminding guests to switch off the air conditioning before leaving the property must be installed).
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of either automatic controls or visible signs.

<b>Code</b>	504
<b>Criterion</b>	The management is using only A-rated white goods in the property.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	All white goods in the property are A-rated.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of all white goods or invoice/receipts documents proving that such white goods are A-rated.

<b>Code</b>	505
<b>Criterion</b>	Power factor correction is installed and operational.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Power factor correction may be for one item or the whole building.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such power factor correction equipment.

<b>Code</b>	506
<b>Criterion</b>	Voltage optimisation is installed and operational.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	A controlled system is in place that regulates incoming voltage. One will be considered to be fulfilling this criterion where such system is installed only one certain appliances.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such voltage optimisation equipment.

<b>Code</b>	507
<b>Criterion</b>	Automatic controls for external illumination are installed and operational.



<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	External illumination is controlled by automatic controls (external lighting switches on and off automatically either by timer or motion/presence sensors).
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such automatic controls.

<b>Code</b>	508
<b>Criterion</b>	Presence Sensors (PIR) are installed and working.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Presence Sensors that are able to detect motion are installed. Once motion is detected, illumination (whether internal or external) is switched on automatically. Examples of where a PIR may be used include the main door entrance area (externally) and in bathrooms (internally).
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such Presence Sensors (PIR).

<b>Code</b>	509
<b>Criterion</b>	A Building Management System (BMS) is installed and working.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	A Building Management System that gives the possibility for a controller to manage the property is installed. A BMS can among other things control the air-conditioned temperature, lighting and central heating.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such Building Management System (BMS).

<b>Code</b>	510
<b>Criterion</b>	Thermal insulation is installed in the building.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Thermal insulation is attained by specifically engineered methods, processes or suitable object shapes and materials that help in the reduction of heat transfer between indoor and outdoor objects such as walls, roof tops and windows (of differing temperatures) in thermal contact. Examples of thermal insulation include: cavity walls, double-glazed windows, window insulation films, spectrally selective (heat-reflective) paints & coatings.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such thermal insulation methods, objects, materials used.

<b>Code</b>	511
<b>Criterion</b>	Alternative energy is used for lighting, heating or other purposes.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Alternative energy may include solar water heaters and photovoltaic

	panels for electricity generation.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of the above.

<b>Code</b>	512
<b>Criterion</b>	A preventative maintenance programme is in place for all electrical equipment.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	A programme dealing with preventive maintenance is in place and used for all electrical equipment. Such a programme shall take the form of a scheduled maintenance log book, where a list of all electrical appliances and their scheduled maintenance are listed. Such log book is to be signed by the person/s inspecting that particular electrical equipment, each and every time this is done.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	Inspection of the Scheduled Maintenance log book.

### **Section 6: Water**

<b>Code</b>	601
<b>Criterion</b>	A preventative maintenance programme is in place for all water systems and equipment.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	A programme dealing with preventive maintenance is in place and used for all water systems and equipment. Such a programme shall take the form of a scheduled maintenance log book, where a list of all water systems and equipment and their scheduled maintenances are listed. Such log book is to be signed by the person/s inspecting that particular water system or equipment, each and every time this is done.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	Inspection of the Scheduled Maintenance log book.

<b>Code</b>	602
<b>Criterion</b>	Rain water harvesting and use is practised at the property.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	The property is not only collecting rain water but making good use of it within the property. An example is using rain water for toilet flushing, irrigation, etc.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of the well/reservoir or any other rain water collector (such as tanks), together with an inspection of the places where such rain water is used.

<b>Code</b>	603
<b>Criterion</b>	Waste water and RO reject are treated effectively before discharging into

	the environment (applicable to direct discharges only).
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	All waste water and Reverse Osmosis reject must be treated effectively before being discharged. This only applies when there is a direct discharge.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	Inspection of license/s for permission of such discharge from the competent Authority (MEPA).

<b>Code</b>	604
<b>Criterion</b>	The property is using water saving devices in at least 1 of the following: all wash hand basins, all showers, all water cisterns.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Water saving devices are installed in at least 1 of the following: wash hand basins (5 litres per minute), all showers (7 litres per minute), all water cisterns (6 litres per flush). Examples of water saving devices include low-flow shower heads and water taps, and toilets with a dual flush system.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such water saving devices.

<b>Code</b>	605
<b>Criterion</b>	The property is using water saving devices in the following: all wash hand basins, all showers, and all water cisterns.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Water saving devices are installed in all wash hand basins (5 litres per minute), all showers (7 litres per minute), all water cisterns (6 litres per flush). Examples of water saving devices include low-flow shower heads and water taps, and toilets with a dual flush system.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site check of such water saving devices.

<b>Code</b>	606
<b>Criterion</b>	Swimming pool water levels are monitored frequently (identifying leakages, etc).
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Effective monitoring of swimming pool water levels is conducted frequently. Such monitoring should take place at least once every week. The main aim for such monitoring shall be that of identifying any water leakages. All monitoring should be recorded and signed by the person conducting the check.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	Inspection of signed records.

<b>Code</b>	607
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<b>Criterion</b>	The property is reusing waste water for irrigation and/or other purposes.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Waste water generated by the property is being reused for irrigation and/or other purposes.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such use.

### **Section 7: Air Quality**

<b>Code</b>	701
<b>Criterion</b>	The property implements practices to reduce or offset its greenhouse gas emissions.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Practices to reduce or offset greenhouse gas emissions generated by the property are implemented. Such practices may include, use of eco-friendly appliances, use of eco-friendly products, tree planting and organising environmental activities (which may be both for guests and/or staff).
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection for practices used in the property. For events and organised activities, photos or relevant documentation is sufficient.

<b>Code</b>	702
<b>Criterion</b>	The property encourages guests not to smoke indoors. A 'no smoking' sign or similar must be visible.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Guests are encouraged to smoke outdoors rather than indoors. A sign depicting 'no smoking' or similar is visible. Such a sign can be either a plaque, sticker/s or tent card/s.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such sign.

<b>Code</b>	703
<b>Criterion</b>	The management is informing and encouraging guests to use public transport, bicycles and other sustainable modes of transport.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Guests are being encouraged by various ways and means to use public transport, bicycles and other sustainable modes of transport. This may be done by, providing tent cards or handouts with route buses schedule, providing car or bicycle hire company's contact details etc.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such requirements.

### **Section 8: Noise**

<b>Code</b>	801
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<b>Criterion</b>	The property implements practices to reduce noise pollution.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Certain practices are implemented to reduce noise pollution. Noise pollution may be reduced by double-glazed windows (sound proofing), notices to guests with regards to noise levels after 11pm (as prescribed by law), casing and positioning of A/C outdoor units etc.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such practices.

<b>Code</b>	802
<b>Criterion</b>	Double-glazed windows or other insulating systems are used to reduce impacts of external noise.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	External noise is reduced by double-glazed windows or other insulating systems.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of double-glazed windows or other insulating system used.

### **Section 9: Buildings and green areas**

<b>Code</b>	901
<b>Criterion</b>	The management implements practices to reduce light pollution.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Light pollution is being reduced by the management. Light pollution may be reduced by switching off (or dimming) unnecessary illumination from the property. Such switching off (or dimming) may be either carried out by using timers, motion sensors or light sensors.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of outdoor illumination timers and/or motion sensors and/or light sensors.

<b>Code</b>	902
<b>Criterion</b>	The management implements practices to reduce the effects of water runoff and erosion.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Effects of water runoff and erosion are being reduced through practices implemented by the management such as overflow systems (for water tanks and pools), planting of trees and/or plants, reinforced retaining walls (protecting soil areas), among others.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such practices.

<b>Code</b>	903
<b>Criterion</b>	Mainly native plants are used in external areas and preventive measures

	are taken against the introduction of invasive alien species.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	<p>Embellishment of external areas is done predominantly by using native plants. Examples of native trees include: Olive Tree (Siġra taż-Żebbuġ), Carrob Tree (Siġra tal-Ħarrub) and Juniper Tree (Siġra tal-Għargħar). Examples of native plants include: Linaria Pseudolaxiflora (Papoċċi), Crown Daisy (Lellux) and Palaeocyanus Crassifolius (Widnet il-Baħar).</p> <p>Invasive alien species are species that are initially transported through human action outside of their natural range across ecological barriers, and that then survive, reproduce and spread, and that have negative impacts on the ecology of their new location as well as serious economic and social consequences. Examples include: Tree-of-Heaven (Xumakk Falz) and the Kaffr or Hottentot Fig (Swaba tal-Madonna) and the Red Palm Weevil (Bumunqar Aħmar tal-Palm).</p>
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of property's external areas.

<b>Code</b>	904
<b>Criterion</b>	Irrigation is carried out early in the morning and/or in the late evening.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Watering of trees and plants is done either early in the morning and/or late in the evening. 'Early morning' is before sunrise, whilst 'late evening' is after sunset.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of irrigation timer/s. In case that irrigation is done manually, a signed log book must be kept with date and time records.

<b>Code</b>	905
<b>Criterion</b>	Automatic irrigation is used to save water in external gardens.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	External gardens are irrigated by an automatic system. Such a system may include drip irrigation and sprinklers.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such automatic irrigation system/s.

<b>Code</b>	906
<b>Criterion</b>	The landscaped areas are predominantly planted with low water consumption plants.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Low water consumption plants are mostly used for landscaping. Low water consumption plants include the majority of all native plants and trees.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of landscaped areas.

<b>Code</b>	907
<b>Criterion</b>	The property is producing its own compost.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Compost used in the property is being produced by the property itself.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of compost bin.

### **Section 10: Local culture & natural surroundings**

<b>Code</b>	1001
<b>Criterion</b>	The property is using elements of local art, architecture or cultural heritage in its design or decoration.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Local art, architecture or cultural heritage is used in the design and/or decoration of the property. Examples of these include: paintings & statues of local artists, locally made souvenirs, corbels (kileb), etc.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of the interior and exterior design and decoration of the property.

<b>Code</b>	1002
<b>Criterion</b>	The property offers a means for small businesses to develop and sell local sustainable products (e.g. paintings, crafts, food & drink).
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	The management of the property supports local small businesses to develop through selling and using local sustainable products. Locally crafted products may be used to decorate and are available for sale at the property, local food and drinks may be offered in the property (where applicable). Examples of local delicacies which may be sold to guests include olive oil, sundried tomatoes, bajtar liquor and limuncell.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of various part of the property whereby it is evident that small businesses are being supported by the property.

<b>Code</b>	1003
<b>Criterion</b>	Any disturbance of natural ecosystems is minimised and compensated for through rehabilitation / conservation management where applicable.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Any possible disturbance of natural ecosystems is minimised as much as possible and compensated for. An example of rehabilitation includes that of re-planting of trees/plants and an example of conservation includes preserving and protecting any form of heritage.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such practices mentioned.

## **Section 11: Guest communication**

<b>Code</b>	1101
<b>Criterion</b>	Information about the natural surroundings and local cultural heritage (including cultural events) as well as information on appropriate visitor behaviour (where appropriate) are provided by the property.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Information about the natural surroundings and local cultural heritage is provided by the property. This includes information with regards to any upcoming cultural events on the island. Such information may be given through different means such as via printed material. Information on appropriate visitor behaviour is also to be given (where applicable).
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of means used to convey such information (example, printed material).

<b>Code</b>	1102
<b>Criterion</b>	The property is informing guests about local environmental initiatives and activities in which they can participate.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Information about any local initiatives and activities in which guests can participate are available to guests. Such activities are to include those organised by the Central Government, Local Government (Local Councils) and registered NGOs (Non-Governmental Organisations).
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	Availability of information at farmhouse

<b>Code</b>	1103
<b>Criterion</b>	Customer satisfaction, including on sustainability aspects, is measured and corrective action is taken as appropriate.
<b>Type</b>	Mandatory
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	A system is in place whereby customer satisfaction is recorded and corrective action is taken place. This may be done among other by way of questionnaire forms. Where such replies are recorded and action is taken to target any weaknesses.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of questionnaire forms (which may be tangible printed forms or also available on-line) and also the system where such comments are recorded (such as database, excel sheet, etc).

<b>Code</b>	1104
<b>Criterion</b>	The property is informing and encouraging guests to participate in its environmental management programme.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	Guest are being informed and asked to participate in the property's



	environmental management programme. Information and encouraging guests to separate their waste and to save water/electricity are examples to this effect.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of such means used to inform and encourage guests.

<b>Code</b>	1105
<b>Criterion</b>	The property is informing guests on its environmental management system results.
<b>Type</b>	Voluntary
<b>Criterion Rational</b>	This criterion is to reflect criterion 102 where specific goals are mentioned on the environmental policy. The results conveyed to guests are actually those specific goals achieved or part of. The results may include (the following are examples of certain specific goals stated in the environmental policy as per criterion 102): improvements in energy and water consumption as well as general environmental initiatives taken during the year including planting local/native trees and installing PV panels. These results may be conveyed to guests through different means such as printed material.
<b>Proof of Evidence</b>	On-site inspection of means used to convey such results.

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**End of Manual**

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