NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE **MT0000015**

SITENAME **L-Inħawi tal-Għadira**

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
C	MT0000015

1.3 Site name

L-Inħawi tal-Għadira

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
2004-04	2019-09

1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation:	Environment and Resources Authority
Address:	Hexagon House, Spencer Hill, Marsa MRS 1441
Email:	natura.2000@era.org.mt

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

Date site classified as SPA:	2004-04
National legal reference of SPA designation	Government Notice No. 112 of 2007, in accordance with the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2016 (S.L. 549.44)

Date site proposed as SCI:	2004-04
Date site confirmed as SCI:	2008-03
Date site designated as SAC:	2016-12
National legal reference of SAC designation:	Government Notice No. 1379 of 2016, in accordance with the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2016 (S.L. 549.44)

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude	Latitude
14.3463	35.9713

2.2 Area [ha]:

97.74

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code	Region Name
MT00	Malta

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Mediterranean (100.0 %)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
1150			3.78		G	C	A	B	C
1310			0.45		G	B	A	B	B
1410			0.62		G	C	A	B	B
1420			1.99		G	C	A	B	C
2220			1.13		G	A	B	C	C
5330			5.69		G	B	C	B	C
5410			5.45		G	B	C	B	B
6220			0.77		G	C	C	B	C

PF: for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
NP: in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
Cover: decimal values can be entered
Caves: for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
Data quality: G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation)

3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

Species					Population in the site						Site assessment			
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D.qual.	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
B	A298	Acrocephalus arundinaceus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A293	Acrocephalus melanopogon			w				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A293	Acrocephalus melanopogon			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A295	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A297	Acrocephalus scirpaceus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A168	Actitis hypoleucos			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A247	Alauda arvensis			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A247	Alauda arvensis			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A229	Alcedo atthis			w				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A229	Alcedo atthis			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
P	6302	Anacamptis pyramidalis	Yes		p				P	P	C	A	C	B
B	A054	Anas acuta			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A056	Anas clypeata			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A052	Anas crecca			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			w				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A055	Anas querquedula			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A255	Anthus campestris			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A258	Anthus cervinus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A257	Anthus pratensis			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A257	Anthus pratensis			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A259	Anthus spinoletta			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A256	Anthus trivialis			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
F	1152	Aphanius fasciatus			p				P	P	A	A	A	C
B	A226	Apus apus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A228	Apus melba			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A227	Apus pallidus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A029	Ardea purpurea			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A024	Ardeola ralloides			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A059	Aythya ferina			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A060	Aythya nyroca			c				P	P	A	C	C	C

I	4047	Brachytrupes megacephalus			p	28	28	i	P	M	A	C	A	C
B	A087	Buteo buteo			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A243	Calandrella brachydactyla			r				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A243	Calandrella brachydactyla			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A144	Calidris alba			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A149	Calidris alpina			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A143	Calidris canutus			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A147	Calidris ferruginea			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A145	Calidris minuta			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A146	Calidris temminckii			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A224	Caprimulgus europaeus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A366	Carduelis cannabina			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A366	Carduelis cannabina			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A364	Carduelis carduelis			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A363	Carduelis chloris			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A365	Carduelis spinus			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A365	Carduelis spinus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A288	Cettia cetti			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A138	Charadrius alexandrinus			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A136	Charadrius dubius			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A137	Charadrius hiaticula			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A198	Chlidonias leucopterus			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A081	Circus aeruginosus			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A084	Circus pygargus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A289	Cisticola juncidis			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A113	Coturnix coturnix			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A212	Cuculus canorus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A253	Delichon urbica			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A027	Egretta alba			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A026	Egretta garzetta			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
R	1293	Elaphe situla			p				P	P	C	C	A	C
B	A381	Emberiza schoeniclus			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A381	Emberiza schoeniclus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A269	Erithacus rubecula			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A269	Erithacus rubecula			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A095	Falco naumanni			c				P	P	C	C	C	C

B	A099	Falco subbuteo			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A096	Falco tinnunculus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A097	Falco vespertinus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A321	Ficedula albicollis			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A322	Ficedula hypoleuca			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A320	Ficedula parva			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A359	Fringilla coelebs			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A359	Fringilla coelebs			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A125	Fulica atra			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A125	Fulica atra			w				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A153	Gallinago gallinago			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A154	Gallinago media			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A123	Gallinula chloropus			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A131	Himantopus himantopus			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A299	Hippolais icterina			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A252	Hirundo daurica			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A251	Hirundo rustica			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A022	Ixobrychus minutus			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A233	Jynx torquilla			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A233	Jynx torquilla			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A338	Lanius collurio			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A341	Lanius senator			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A459	Larus cachinnans			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A183	Larus fuscus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A180	Larus genei			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A176	Larus melanocephalus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A179	Larus ridibundus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A150	Limicola falcinellus			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A271	Luscinia megarhynchos			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A272	Luscinia svecica			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A272	Luscinia svecica			w				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A152	Lymnocryptes minimus			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A230	Merops apiaster			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A383	Miliaria calandra			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A073	Milvus migrans			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A262	Motacilla alba			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A262	Motacilla alba			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A261	Motacilla cinerea			w				P	P	C	C	C	C

B	A261	Motacilla cinerea			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A260	Motacilla flava			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A319	Muscicapa striata			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
M	1307	Myotis blythii							P	DD				
B	A023	Nycticorax nycticorax			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A435	Oenanthe isabellina			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A277	Oenanthe oenanthe			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
P	4105	Ophrys melitensis	Yes		p				V	P	A	B	A	C
B	A337	Oriolus oriolus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
P	4106	Orobanche densiflora			p				R	P	A	C	A	C
B	A094	Pandion haliaetus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A356	Passer montanus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A072	Pernis apivorus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A151	Philomachus pugnax			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A035	Phoenicopterus ruber			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A273	Phoenicurus ochruros			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A273	Phoenicurus ochruros			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A274	Phoenicurus phoenicurus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A313	Phylloscopus bonelli			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A315	Phylloscopus collybita			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A315	Phylloscopus collybita			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A314	Phylloscopus sibilatrix			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A312	Phylloscopus trochiloides			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A316	Phylloscopus trochilus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A032	Plegadis falcinellus			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A140	Pluvialis apricaria			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A005	Podiceps cristatus			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A119	Porzana porzana			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A266	Prunella modularis			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A266	Prunella modularis			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A118	Rallus aquaticus			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A318				w				P	P	C	C	C	C

		Regulus ignicapillus													
B	A318	Regulus ignicapillus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A317	Regulus regulus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A317	Regulus regulus			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
M	1303	Rhinolophus hipposideros			p				P	P	C	C	A	C
B	A249	Riparia riparia			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A275	Saxicola rubetra			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A276	Saxicola torquata			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A276	Saxicola torquata			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A155	Scolopax rusticola			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A361	Serinus serinus			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A361	Serinus serinus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A190	Sterna caspia			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A209	Streptopelia decaocto			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A210	Streptopelia turtur			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A351	Sturnus vulgaris			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A311	Sylvia atricapilla			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A311	Sylvia atricapilla			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A310	Sylvia borin			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A304	Sylvia cantillans			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A309	Sylvia communis			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A303	Sylvia conspicillata			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A305	Sylvia melanocephala			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A004	Tachybaptus ruficollis			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A004	Tachybaptus ruficollis			w				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A161	Tringa erythropus			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A166	Tringa glareola			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A164	Tringa nebularia			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A165	Tringa ochropus			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A163	Tringa stagnatilis			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A162	Tringa totanus			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A265	Troglodytes troglodytes			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A283	Turdus merula			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A283	Turdus merula			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A285	Turdus philomelos			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A285	Turdus philomelos			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A232	Upupa epops			c				P	P	C	C	C	C

B	A142	Vanellus vanellus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C

Group: A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles

S: in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes

NP: in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)

Type: p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)

Unit: i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see reference portal)

Abundance categories (Cat.): C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information

Data quality: G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

3.3 Other important species of flora and fauna (optional)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

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4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N08	11.44
N23	40.88
N09	1.41
N03	2.67
N26	7.94
N21	0.12
N27	27.45
N01	6.93
N04	1.16
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The site is very interesting in view of the wide variety of habitats to be found, including a small saltmarsh, a brackish wetland, sand dunes, garrigue/phrygana, steppe and agricultural land. The first three habitats are overall rare in the Maltese Islands. Areas of garrigue/phrygana present within the site are dominated either by Anthyllis hermanniae subsp. melitensis or Euphorbia melitensis. These garrigue areas include some very rare species, like the locally very rare orchid Barlia robertiana. On the other hand, Brachypodium retusum forms the primary component of the steppic areas. Over twenty years ago, the wetland presently found at L-Għadira was a saline marshland that used to dry out every summer. Habitat engineering works have transformed the area into a brackish wetland with a pool that becomes increasingly saline in summer but does not dry out. A number of bird species that are typical of wetlands also breed on a regular basis. L-Għadira is one of the few places in the Maltese Islands where such migrating birds can stop to rest and feed.

4.2 Quality and importance

The wetland present on site, which has been artifically created by habitat engineering works, is considered important as it provides an adequate habitat for the killifish, Aphanius fasciatus (Annex II, Habitats Directive) which is locally restricted to a few places and is threatened. The present population of Aphanius fasciatus, while very large, originates from two wild populations (from Marsa and Is-Salini - the latter is a Natura 2000 site) and is now a mixed one. In addition, the wetland area provides an adequate habitat for a number of migratory bird species: especially waders, rails, bitterns, moorhens and reed-associated warblers. Charadrius dubius, a migratory bird, has recently started to breed on shingle beaches created purposely within the wetland. Pools with fluctuating salinity and the saline marshland that surrounds such pools are rare habitats overall in the Maltese Islands. In fact, the pool and marshland at L-Għadira are now one of the few places where such habitat is found. They are consequently important for species that associate with such habitats, many of which species are overall rare in the

Maltese Islands, even if abundant at L-Għadira. The garrigue area provides suitable breeding ground for Calandrella brachydactyla (Annex I, Birds Directive). The site is one of the few known localities for the endemic form of Orobanche densiflora (Annex II, Habitats Directive). In addition to Orobanche densiflora, the sand dune area supports other rare sand dune species including plants and invertebrates. Additional plant species that have been recorded only from a few sites other than from L-Għadira include Juncus acutus, Melilotus messanensis, Euphorbia chamaesyce, Elytrigia juncea, Ruppia drepanensis, Euphorbia terracina and Juncus subulatus. The garrigue habitat throughout the site provides an important habitat for the reptiles Podarics filfolensis maltensis, Tarentola mauritanica, Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus, Chalcides ocellatus, Chamaeleo chamaeleon, Telescopus fallax fallax, Coluber viridiflavus carbonarius and Elaphe situla (Annex II, Habitats Dircetive). The garrigue/phrygana at Il-Bisqra area, dominated by Anthyllis hermanniae, supports various orchid species, including Ophrys spp., Orchis spp., Serapias spp. and Anacamptis spp. Although the area at the back of the beach at Mellieħa Bay once supported an important dune system, this is now degraded due to a road that passes through it. Yet, what remains of this dune system is still important for a number of sand-associated species that are overall rare in the Maltese Islands. The characteristic species are Elytrigia juncea and Euphorbia terracina. The remnant dune areas are important for several species of invertebrates that are restricted to sand dune habitats. Among these are Leptochilus medamae, Pseudopipona tripunctata, Dasylabris maura, Smicromyrme n.sp., Tachygetes n.sp., Prionyx viduatus, Exohus australis and Mesostenus hellenicus. Other invertebrate species with restricted distribution in the Maltese Islands include Cochlicella conoidea, Scarabeus semipunctatus, Hydrobia ventrosa and many others. A small population of the sand cricket, Brachytrupes megacephalus (Annex II, Habitats Directive) exists at L-Għadira. The endemic tenebrionid beetle Pseudoseriscius cameroni (Annex II, Habitats Directive), used to inhabit the dunes of this area, but it is now probably extinct due to severe degradation of the dune area following the aforementioned road construction and planting of alien and other inappropriate species (This species still survives at Ir-Ramla - Natura 2000 site - on the island of Gozo). The interpretive center found at L-Għadira receives over 8,000 visitors annually including tourists and school children. It serves as a very important educational resource and a means for promoting eco-tourism.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
M	A07		b
L	G05		o
M	H01		i
M	J02.06		i
M	H02		i
M	G02.08		i
M	B01.02		b
M	C01.01.02		i
H	K01		i
M	H06.01		b
L	D02.02		i
H	K05		i
L	E03		i
M	K02		i
M	I01		i
H	J02.05.02		i
L	E04.01		i
L	F03.01		o
M	G01		i
L	E01		i
M	A08		i
M	D01		b
L	H05		i

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low
Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,
T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions
i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.4 Ownership (optional)

4.5 Documentation

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

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5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

5.3 Site designation (optional)

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

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6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Environment and Resources Authority
Address:	
Email:	natura.2000@era.org.mt

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

[X]	Yes	Name: L-Inħawi tal-Għadira Link: https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/Natura-2000-Management-Planning.aspx
[ ]	No, but in preparation	
[ ]	No	

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID: MT.ERA.MT0000015

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format (optional)

[ ] Yes [X] No

Reference(s) to the original map used for the digitalisation of the electronic boundaries (optional).