



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 **MT0000006**
SITENAME **Is-Simar (limiti ta' San Pawl il-Baħar)**

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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1.1 Type C	1.2 Site code MT0000006
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1.3 Site name

Is-Simar (limiti ta' San Pawl il-Baħar)

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
2004-04	2018-05

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)

					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	B	C	B
B	A168	Actitis hypoleucos			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A247	Alauda arvensis			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A247	Alauda arvensis			c				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	4102	Anacamptis urvilleana	Yes		p				R	P	C	B	A	B
B	A054	Anas acuta			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A056	Anas clypeata			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A052	Anas crecca			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A055	Anas querquedula			c				P	P	A	B	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	A256	Anthus trivialis			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
F	1152	Aphanius fasciatus			p				P	P	A	B	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	A028	Ardea cinerea			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	B	C	C
B	A222	Asio flammeus			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A059	Aythya ferina			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A060	Aythya nyroca			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A021	Botaurus stellaris			c				P	P	B	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	A149	Calidris alpina			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	B	C	C	C

B	A366	Carduelis cannabina			c				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			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A371	Carpodacus erythrinus			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A288	Cettia cetti			c				P	P	C	B	C	B
B	A136	Charadrius dubius			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A081	Circus aeruginosus			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A289	Cisticola juncidis			c				P	P	C	B	C	B
B	A113	Coturnix coturnix			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
P	4092	Elatine gussonei			p				P	P	C	B	A	C
B	A381	Emberiza schoeniclus			w				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A381	Emberiza schoeniclus			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A269	Erithacus rubecula			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A269	Erithacus rubecula			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	M	C	C	C	C
B	A125	Fulica atra			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A125	Fulica atra			w				P	P	A	B	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	B	B	C	B
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	B	C	B
B	A233	Jynx torquilla			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A233	Jynx torquilla			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A341	Lanius senator			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A179	Larus ridibundus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A292	Locustella luscinioides			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A271	Luscinia megarhynchos			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A272	Luscinia svecica			w				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A272	Luscinia svecica			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A152	Lymnocyptes minimus			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A230	Merops apiaster			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A281	Monticola solitarius			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			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A261	Motacilla cinerea			w				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
B	A023	Nycticorax nycticorax			c				P	P	B	B	C	C
B	A277	Oenanthe oenanthe			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
P	4105	Ophrys melitensis	Yes		p				P	P	A	C	A	C
B	A337	Oriolus oriolus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A017	Phalacrocorax carbo			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A151	Philomachus pugnax			c				P	P	B	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	A315	Phylloscopus collybita			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A315	Phylloscopus collybita			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A314	Phylloscopus sibilatrix			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A316	Phylloscopus trochilus			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A140	Pluvialis apricaria			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A008	Podiceps nigricollis			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A120	Porzana parva			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A119	Porzana porzana			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A266	Prunella modularis			c				P	P	C	C	C	C

B	A266	Prunella modularis			w			P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A118	Rallus aquaticus			c			P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A318	Regulus ignicapillus			c			P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A318	Regulus ignicapillus			c			P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A317	Regulus regulus			c			P	P	C	C	C	C
M	1303	Rhinolophus hipposideros			p			P	DD				
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			c			P	P	C	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	A305	Sylvia melanocephala			c			P	P	C	B	C	B
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	A162	Tringa totanus			c			P	P	A	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	A284	Turdus pilaris			c			P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A232	Upupa epops			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
N01	5.69
N09	5.5
N06	0.12
N27	62.35
N08	5.16
N23	10.45
N26	10.73
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The wetland at Is-Simar was originally a freshwater wetland, and it was saline only close to the sea. About fifteen years ago it had been reduced to a small saline wetland through silting from surrounding agricultural land. During that time these areas were cleared with heavy machinery in an effort to restore back the original extent of the wetland. Nowadays, the wetland is brackish due to its close proximity to the sea and seawater seepage. A number of bird species that are typical of wetlands breed here on a regular basis.

4.2 Quality and importance

The wetland present in site and which has been artificially recreated 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 also threatened. It is to be noted, however, that *Aphanius fasciatus* never occurred naturally at Is-Simar and the population here was established from that at L-Ghadira (another Natura 2000 site), itself a mixed population. In addition to the aforementioned engineering works, small areas bordering the wetland were planted with rare riparian species, mostly typical of the *Populus alba* community. In addition, the wetland area provides adequate habitat for a number of migratory bird species: especially rails, bitterns, moorhens and warblers that are associated with reeds. Is-Simar is one of the few places in the Maltese Islands where such migrating birds can stop to rest and feed. The garrigue present within the site actually represents a mosaic of labiate garrigue and rocky andropogonid grass steppe characterised by the plant species *Hyparrhenia hirta*, *Andropogon distachyus*, *Asphodelus aestivus*, *Thymbra capitata*, *Teucrium fruticans*, *Chiliadenus bocconeii* and *Asparagus aphyllus*. This steppe/garrigue habitat provides an important habitat for the reptiles *Podarcis filfolensis maltensis*, *Tarentola mauritanica*, *Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus*, *Chalcides ocellatus tiligugu*, *Telescopus fallax fallax*, *Coluber viridiflavus carbonarius* and *Elaphe situla* (Annex II, Habitats Directive). Rainwater rock pools are found in the steppe/garrigue area but these have not been studied yet. A variety of rare flora and fauna associated with such freshwater habitats are expected to be present, including *Elatine gussonei* (Annex II, Habitats Directive) and *Zannichellia melitensis*. The carob trees found in the area include some of the oldest carob trees found locally. Tree species that are not listed as Red Data Book species but are protected include *Cercis siliquastrum*, *Ceratonia siliqua*, *Rhamnus oleoides*, *Rhamnus alaternus*, *Phillyrea latifolia*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Pinus halepensis* and *Cupressus sempervirens*.

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	K01.02		i
M	K01.03		i
M	I01		i
L	I03.01		i

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

M	J02		i
H	H01		i
M	K02.03		i
L	K01.01		i
M	J02.05.02		i
M	A01		i
M	D01.02		b
L	B01.02		b
L	G05.01		i
L	J02.11		i
M	A08		i
L	K02.02		i
M	A07		b
M	E03.03		i

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:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Name: Is-Simar Link: https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/Natura-2000-Management-Planning.aspx
<input type="checkbox"/> No, but in preparation	
<input type="checkbox"/> No	

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format (optional)

Yes No

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