



# 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 **MT0000023**  
SITENAME **Il-Magħluq tal-Baħar ta' Marsaskala**

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## 1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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<b>1.1 Type</b> B	<b>1.2 Site code</b> MT0000023
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### 1.3 Site name

Il-Magħluq tal-Baħar ta' Marsaskala
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<b>1.4 First Compilation date</b>	<b>1.5 Update date</b>
2004-04	2018-05

### 1.6 Respondent:

<b>Name/Organisation:</b>	Environment and Resources Authority
<b>Address:</b>	Hexagon House, Spencer Hill, Marsa MRS 1441
<b>Email:</b>	natura2000@mepa.org.mt

### 1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

<b>Date site classified as SPA:</b>	0000-00
<b>National legal reference of SPA designation</b>	No data
<b>Date site proposed as SCI:</b>	2004-04
<b>Date site confirmed as SCI:</b>	2008-03
<b>Date site designated as SAC:</b>	2016-12
<b>National legal reference of SAC designation:</b>	Government Notice No. 1379 of 2016, in accordance with the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2016 (S.L. 549.44)



F	1152	<a href="#">Aphanius fasciatus</a>			p				C	P	C	C	A	C
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**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

### 4.1 General site character

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Habitat class	% Cover
N27	74.73
N01	0.92
N23	19.91
N03	4.44
<b>Total Habitat Cover</b>	100

### Other Site Characteristics

Il-Magħluq tal-Baħar is mainly a body of brackish water that was originally two interconnected fish ponds lined with layered stones. The saline marshland is the ground around the periphery of the pool. A road runs along the eastern side of the marsh while the western and southern sides are surrounded by agricultural fields. The main pool is maintained by freshwater through precipitation and seepage from the surrounding fields and by seawater to which the pond is connected by pipes running underneath the road. Most of the Marsaskala region has been developed into residential and recreational complexes, including the immediate surroundings of the area, which is itself bound by a main road and a set of restaurants, tourist complexes and shopping precincts, except for an area fenced by the former Environment Protection Department in the late 1990s and the northern side and part of the eastern side of the fenced area, which are still mainly agricultural.

### 4.2 Quality and importance

The Il-Magħluq tal-Baħar area represents one of the few extant marshland communities in the Maltese Islands, and is one of the two remaining marshes in the South of Malta. It is located at the mouth of a large valley system in the now urbanised Marsaskala region, forming an estuary that originally led to a vast marshland area, fish ponds and a long extinct sand dune system. The site is characterised by two brackish water pools, originally utilised as fish ponds until the mid 20th century. The banks of the pools and the northern part of the area support one of the few *Juncetalia maritimi* communities of the Maltese Islands, typified by the sea rush, *Juncus maritimus*, nationally a vulnerable species with a restricted distribution in the Maltese Islands. Various halophytic and wetland plants are also known from the area, including the vulnerable wedge-footed grass, *Sphenopus divaricatus*, and *Limbarda crithmoides*, *Phragmites australis*, *Salsola soda*, *Salicornia ramosissima* and *Suaeda maritima*. The invertebrate fauna associated with the marshland vegetation is also quite diverse, although only a few groups have been studied.

### 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	Pollution (optional)	inside/outside [i o b]

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

	pressures [code]	[code]	
M	B01.02		i
H	A08		b
H	K02.03		i
H	I01		b
M	H05		o
H	E03		o
H	K01.02		i
M	J02		i
H	H01		i
H	J02.12		i

[code]	[code]	
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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:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
MT99	Il-Maghluq tal-Bahar (l/o Marsaskala)	=	100.0
MT99	Saline marshland at il-Maghluq	=	100.0

#### 5.3 Site designation (optional)

The site is designated as a Special Area of Conservation - Candidate Site of International Importance via Government Notice 112 of 2007, as declared through the provisions of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Regulations of 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006). The saline marshland at il-Maghluq is scheduled as an Area of Ecological Importance and as a Site of Scientific Importance (Development Planning Act, Government Notice 288 of 1995).

### 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: Il-Maghluq tal-Bahar ta' Marsaskala Link: <a href="https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/Natura-2000-Management-Planning.aspx">https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/Natura-2000-Management-Planning.aspx</a>
<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:

MT.ERA.MT0000023

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).