



# 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 **MT0000117**  
SITENAME **Żona fil-Baħar fl-inħawi tal-Punent tal-Graben ta' Malta**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [1. SITE IDENTIFICATION](#)
- [2. SITE LOCATION](#)
- [3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION](#)
- [4. SITE DESCRIPTION](#)
- [6. SITE MANAGEMENT](#)
- [7. MAP OF THE SITE](#)

## 1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

[Back to top](#)

<b>1.1 Type</b> B	<b>1.2 Site code</b> MT0000117
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### 1.3 Site name

Żona fil-Baħar fl-inħawi tal-Punent tal-Graben ta' Malta

<b>1.4 First Compilation date</b> 2018-05	<b>1.5 Update date</b> -
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### 1.6 Respondent:

<b>Name/Organisation:</b>	Environment and Resources Authority
<b>Address:</b>	Hexagon House, Spencer Hill, Marsa MRS 1441
<b>Email:</b>	natura.2000@era.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>	2018-06
<b>Date site confirmed as SCI:</b>	No data
<b>Date site designated as SAC:</b>	No data
<b>National legal reference of SAC designation:</b>	No data

## 2. SITE LOCATION

### 2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

[Back to top](#)

**Longitude**

35.8585

**Latitude**

13.912

### 2.2 Area [ha]:

20127.74

### 2.3 Marine area [%]

100.0

### 2.4 Sitelength [km]:

### 2.5 Administrative region code and name

**NUTS level 2 code**

**Region Name**

MTZZ	Extra-Regio
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### 2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Marine (100.0  
Mediterranean %)

## 3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

### 3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

[Back to top](#)

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
1170			2688.39		G	A	A	B	B

**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

### 3.3 Other important species of flora and fauna (optional)

## 4. SITE DESCRIPTION

### 4.1 General site character

[Back to top](#)

Habitat class	% Cover
N01	100.0

### Other Site Characteristics

This particular site is characterised by a shallower western side and a deeper eastern side. In north-western corner, depths vary from 450 m to 1087 m in the north-eastern corner at the edge of the Malta Graben. The seafloor is composed of shallow slopes with a series of steep outcrops and escarpments dropping from depths of 500 m to 1000 m over a horizontal distance of 250 m. Other than prominent outcrops, the sloping seafloor is uniform.

### 4.2 Quality and importance

Reef assemblages present are characterised by a variety of sessile cnidarians and sponges. The most abundant habitat-forming species are sponges, particularly *Hexadella dedritifera*, together with cnidarians such as the scleractinian (stony coral) *Madrepora oculata*, and the alcyonacean *Callogorgia verticillata*. A high density of the critically endangered bamboo coral *Isidella elongata* is found to be associated with reef habitats in this area. Other less abundant habitat-forming species are also encountered, including species of conservation interest, such as antipatharians, the stony coral *Lophelia pertusa* and the precious red coral *Corallium rubrum*. Other relevant habitat-forming species includes the cnidarians *Bebryce mollis*, *Dendrobrachia bonsai*, *Dendrophyllia cornigera*, *Muriceides lepida*, and *Placogorgia* spp., and the poriferan cf. *Pachastrella monilifera*. A variety of associated fauna (especially sponges, echinoderms, molluscs, crustaceans and fish) is also present. This area also houses the largest densities of the critically endangered cnidarian *Isidella elongata*.

### 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]
L	F02.03		b
L	M02.01		b
L	F02.01		b
L	H03.03		b
L	D03.02		b
L	M01.01		b
L	F02.02		b

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)

### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

[Back to top](#)

### 5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

### 5.3 Site designation (optional)

## 6. SITE MANAGEMENT

### 6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

[Back to top](#)

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

## 6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

- Yes  
 No, but in preparation  
 No

## 6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

## 7. MAP OF THE SITES

[Back to top](#)

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).