



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 **MT0000005**
SITENAME **L-Inħawi tar-Ramla**

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code MT0000005
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1.3 Site name

L-Inħawi tar-Ramla

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:	0000-00
National legal reference of SPA designation	No data
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

14.285

Latitude

36.0625

2.2 Area [ha]:

7.42

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
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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
1210			0.02		G	B	B	B	B
1240			0.84		G	C	C	C	B
2110			0.51		G	B	A	B	B
2210			0.43		G	B	A	B	B
2220			0.5		G	B	A	B	B
8210			0.84		G	B	C	C	B
92D0			1.2		G	B	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

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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.
I	4047	Brachytrupes megacephalus			p	16	16	i	P	M	A	A	A	A
I	4025	Pseudoseriscius cameroni			p				P	P	A	B	A	B

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 categories 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	17.8
N04	36.79
N23	6.59
N05	22.64
N18	16.18
Total Habitat Cover	99.99999999999999

Other Site Characteristics

Ramla Bay lies between two headlands at the mouth of a valley system constituting the Wied ir-Ramla system. The area is characterised by hills which slope gently towards the bay, typified by Blue Clay formations surrounding the bay. The beach consists mostly of sand of Holocene age, backed by wind-blown dunes and raised beach deposits which extend inland for about 200m.

4.2 Quality and importance

The sand dune at Ir-Ramla is probably the only remaining intact sand dune on the Maltese Islands. It includes the whole vegetation succession from embryo dunes with *Cakile maritima* and *Salsola kali*, to *Elytrigetum* dunes, eventually forming fixed *Crucianelletea* dunes. It hosts a variety of important sand dune species including *Echinophora spinosa*, *Euphorbia terracina* and *Pancreatium maritimum*. These are very important for sand-associating invertebrates, many of which have a very restricted distribution in the Maltese Islands or are only known from Ir-Ramla. *Posidonia* leaves are washed up onto the beach, forming banquettes, which support interesting faunal communities. The banquettes therefore serve as a source of organic content for the beach, which in turn supports a large number of invertebrate species that occur in the dune and dry zones of the beach, and which include detritus feeders (eg. the tenebrionid *Phaleria* spp.) as well as predators (eg. Carabid beetles). The beach and dune form part of a dynamic geomorphological process that gives rise to a complex coastal formation which is both rare and vulnerable locally. A running temporary stream bisects the beach during the rainy season. A large freshwater pool forms behind the *Tamarix africana* stands often extending to the shoreline in the rainy season. This supports a wetland community dominated by *Phragmites* and *Bolboschoenus*. The wetland bisects the beach and is an important source of sediment and nutrition for the beach. One of the main communities at Ir-Ramla is the *Centaureo-Ononidetum ramosissimae* fixed dune community, dominated by the bush rest-harrow *Ononis*

matrix subsp. ramosissima and Euphorbia terracina. The cliffs on either side of the bay are dominated by maritime communities such as the Crithmo-Limonietea community with the endemic Limonium melitense. The Crucianellion rupestris alliance, which consists of Crucianella rupestris, Limonium melitense, Hypericum aegypticum, Cichorium spinosum, Desmazeria pignatti, Daucus spp. and Crithmum maritimum, intermixes and grades into a community based upon the endemic Salsola melitensis (= Darniella melitensis), which is frequent in the cliffs of the area. A good population of the sand cricket Brachytrupes megacephalus exists in the area. This site is also the only known extant locality for the endemic Pseudoseriscius cameroni, a critically endangered species confined to this site, following its probable extinction from L-Ghadira (Malta).

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	F04		i
H	G05.01		i
L	G02.08		i
M	F03.02.01		b
H	K01.01		i
M	C01.01.02		i
H	A08		b
M	A01		b
H	I01		b
H	K04.01		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)

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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: L-Inħawi tar-Ramla 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:

MT.ERA.MT0000005

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).