



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 **MT0000018**
SITENAME **L-Inhawi tal-Buskett u tal-Girgenti**

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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1.1 Type C	1.2 Site code MT0000018
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1.3 Site name

L-Inhawi tal-Buskett u tal-Girgenti

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
14.4031

Latitude
35.8601

2.2 Area [ha]:

244.71

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
3170			0.05		G	B	B	B	B
5230			4.76		G	B	A	B	B
5330			4.6		G	B	C	B	B
8310				1	M	B	C	B	B
92A0			2.92		G	C	A	C	C
9320			3.66		G	B	B	B	B
9340			0.76		G	C	A	C	B
9540			16.72		G	B	A	A	A

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	A086	Accipiter nisus			c				V	P	B	C	C	C
B	A294	Acrocephalus paludicola			c				V	P	C	C	C	C
B	A089	Aquila pomarina			c				R	P	A	C	C	C
B	A288	Cettia cetti			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A081	Circus aeruginosus			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A289	Cisticola juncidis			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A122	Crex crex			c				V	P	D			
R	1293	Elaphe situla			p				R	P	C	C	A	B
P	4092	Elatine gussonei			p				P	P	C	B	A	B
B	A101	Falco biarmicus			c				V	P	D			
B	A100	Falco eleonora			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A095	Falco naumanni			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A099	Falco subbuteo			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A096	Falco tinnunculus			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A359	Fringilla coelebs			c				C	P	A	B	C	B
B	A359	Fringilla coelebs			w				R	P	A	B	C	B
B	A251	Hirundo rustica			c				C	P	C	C	C	C
B	A341	Lanius senator			c				C	P	C	C	C	C
B	A271	Luscinia megarhynchos			c				C	P	C	C	C	C
B	A319	Muscicapa striata			c				C	P	A	B	C	B
M	1307	Myotis blythii			c	2	2	i		G	B	B	A	B
I	4051	Myrmecophilus baronii			p				P	P	A	C	A	C
P	4105	Ophrys melitensis	Yes		p				P	DD				
B	A072	Pernis apivorus			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
P	1395	Petalophyllum ralfsii			p				V	P	A	B	A	B
M	1303	Rhinolophus hipposideros			c	1	60	i		G	C	B	A	C
B	A361	Serinus serinus			w				R	P	A	B	C	B
B	A361	Serinus serinus			c				C	P	A	B	C	B
B	A305	Sylvia melanocephala			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
N16	1.32
N08	16.72
N17	6.83
N27	52.86
N18	0.31
N26	7.5
N23	6.94
N21	3.0
N06	0.02
N10	4.5
Total Habitat Cover	99.99999999999999

Other Site Characteristics

Buskett, located in the western-southwestern coast of Malta, is one of the few wooded areas of the Maltese Islands. The area is rich in biodiversity and has been declared as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International, particularly due to its international importance for raptor migration. The site also houses a number of biotopes and species listed in the respective Annexes of the EU Wild Birds and Habitats Directive. Buskett is also a popular recreational destination, particularly during the winter season for Maltese and tourists alike.

4.2 Quality and importance

The Buskett/Girgenti Natura 2000 site is a large valley system which supports several habitat types at the following locations. The woodland itself and nearby open spaces are also important as a concentration point for birds of prey, many of which are of international importance. In fact the site is declared as an Important Bird Area by BirdLife International. Buskett is very important for woodland and wood-associated species as well as for those of leaf-litter and for cryptofauna in general. These include a number of insects, woodlice and spiders that are only known from Buskett or two/three other places in the Maltese Islands. Ġnien il-Kbir/Ġnien iż-Żgħir is characterised by a riparian vegetation characteristic of *Salix alba* and *Populus alba* galleries. Trees include *Salix alba*, with this area being the only extant native station from where this tree is known, *Salix pedicellata*, *Populus alba* and *Ulmus canescens*. Isolated remnants of *Quercus ilex* also cover some expanses of land. The Buskett area, which includes Il-Gonna tal-Buskett and Il-Palazz ta' Verdala, is a semi-natural woodland based on *Pinus halepensis* and *Ceratonia siliqua* trees; which are characteristic of two habitat types: Mediterranean pine forests with endemic Mesogean pines and *Olea* and *Ceratonia* forests. It is important for many wood-associated species, including invertebrates such as snails and indigenous beetles; and mycoflora, such as *Boletopsis grisea* and *Sacrospira coronaria*. In fact, some fungi species are only known from here or 2-3 other sites in the Maltese Islands. Other flora are also found within this area. These include undergrowth species such as *Ruscus hypophyllum*, which is very rare; *Rhamnus alaternus*; *Iris foetidissima*, which is only recorded from this locality); *Scilla clusii* which is possibly endemic; *Kundmannia sicula*; and various other orchids. At Wied il-Luq, one can find one of the most important features at this Natura 2000 site. This is the native *Populetum albae* riparian woodland consisting of *Populus alba*; *Fraxinus angustifolia*, which is only known from this site; as well as *Ulmus minor* and *Quercus robur*. The watercourse is important for many species such as *Carex divulsa*, *Calystegia x lucana*, *Physa acuta* and *Discoglossus pictus*. This area is also important for lepidoptera and flatworms. The Bosk area is a *Quercus ilex*

forest remnant, and also supports an arborescent matorral with *Laurus nobilis*. Other species include *Rhamnus alaternus*, *Pistacia* spp. and *Crataegus* spp. A permanent freshwater spring occurs at Ghajn il-Kbira (Girgenti). Due to the limited cover of this habitat type in the Maltese Islands, the species associated with this habitat type are very rare and threatened. These include *Vicia bithynica*, *Potamogeton pectinatus* and *Ruscus hypophyllum*, which are known to occur only at Ghajn il-Kbira. Moreover, the Freshwater mussel *Pisidium casertarum* occurs in only 2-3 localities in the Maltese Islands, with Ghajn il-Kbira is one of these sites. Caves also occur within this area. L-Ghar ta' l-Inkwizitur, for example, contains a number of endemic species. It is also an important roosting site for *Rhinolophus hipposideros*, an Annex II species, *Myotis punicus* and *Plecotus austriacus*. The cave at Girgenti is a very important site for bats and also for cave-dwelling invertebrates, which are often endemics and known only from this cave. The area found at Ix-Xagħra ta' Laroka, Ta' Żuta and the Girgenti areas consist of mixed garrigue characterised by *Thymra capitata*, *Anthyllis hermanniae*, *Rhamnus oleiodes*, *Erica multiflora*, *Teucrium fruticans*, *Teucrium flavum*, *Lonicera implexa* and *Asparagus aphyllus*. Other species include orchids, mostly *Ophrys* species. This is the only site for the critically endangered *Salvia fruticosa*. In the most exposed areas, the karstland exhibits a rocky steppe aspect and is dominated by *Asphodelus aestivus* and *Hyparrhenia hirta*. These areas are also rich in shrubs such as *Pistacia lentiscus*, *Ceratonia siliqua*, *Prunus* spp., *Punica granatum* and *Crataegus* spp. Disturbance is however intense in some areas and components of a disturbed steppic assemblage such as *Foeniculum vulgare*, *Ferula communis* and *Glebionis coronaria* are found. The site also harbours an afforested recreational area in which various threatened species have been planted including *Tetraclinis articulata*, *Chaemaerops humilis* and *Pistacia terebinthus*. The dominant trees here are *Olea europaea* and *Pinus halepensis*. A considerable part of this Natura 2000 site, in particular the periphery, consists of agricultural land which is still in use. Fruit trees, in particular stone fruit and citrus trees, are the most common. In some areas, though agriculture is not intensive and land is dry farmed, threatened agro-species have been reported from this area. The status of these species, however, requires verification since no surveys were carried out in this respect. For example, the very rare *Adonis microcarpa*, the rare *Glebionis segetum*, *Agrostemma githago* and *Hibiscus trionum* have not been recently reported from the Maltese Islands. The agricultural land is also important for rubble walls which, apart from their agricultural and cultural value, are also an important habitat for reptiles, small mammals and other plants. Other important species include: *Petalophyllum ralfsii*, a bryophyte with a restricted distribution in the Mediterranean, and found at a few localities across the Maltese Islands; *Myrmecophilus baronii*, a flightless Pelago-Maltese cricket, which is listed as very rare with a restricted distribution in the Maltese Islands, with its record from Buskett being one of the two known localities; the vulnerable and restrictedly distributed *Myotis punicus* which is known to roost and breed in the nearby caves and thus utilises Buskett as a feeding ground; and *Monticola solitarius*, which breeds on the escarpments surrounding Buskett, and uses the area as its the main feeding ground.

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	I01		b
H	J02		b
H	G01		i
M	K01.01		i
L	E03.01		i
L	B02.03		i
M	G05.01		i
M	B01.02		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

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

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 tal-Buskett u tal-Girgenti 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).

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