



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 **MT0000116**
SITENAME **Żona fil-Baħar fl-inħawi tal-Grabben ta' Medina**

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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| | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1.1 Type B | 1.2 Site code MT0000116 |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|

1.3 Site name

Żona fil-Baħar fl-inħawi tal-Grabben ta' Medina

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1.4 First Compilation date 2018-05 | 1.5 Update date 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: | 0000-00 |
| National legal reference of SPA designation | No data |
| Date site proposed as SCI: | 2018-06 |
| Date site confirmed as SCI: | No data |
| Date site designated as SAC: | No data |
| National legal reference of SAC designation: | No data |

2. SITE LOCATION

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2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude

14.2818

Latitude

35.5481

2.2 Area [ha]:

91192.67

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 |
|------|-------------|

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Marine (100.0

Mediterranean %)

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 |
| 1170 | | | 1583.0 | | G | A | B | B | 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. |
| R | 1224 | Caretta caretta | | | c | 0 | 180 | i | C | G | B | B | C | B |
| M | 1349 | Tursiops truncatus | | | p | 0 | 79 | i | P | G | C | B | B | 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 | 100.0 |
| Total Habitat Cover | 100 |

Other Site Characteristics

This site is characterised by two parallel prominent rides running from the western side to the eastern side. The escarpment of the northern ridge drops from ca. 250 m to a depth of 740 m, whilst the southern escarpment drops 417 m to 600 m over a horizontal distance of 200 m. The southern ridge gradually decreases in prominence at its south-eastern extent. Two apparent smaller ridge-like features which run parallel to the larger east-west oriented ridges are also present. These are smaller in size compared to the main ridges and are either of geological or hydrodynamic origin. Except for the prominent ridges and these smaller parallel elevations, the seafloor is uniform, without any rocky outcrops.

4.2 Quality and importance

The reef assemblages present along the escarpments in this area are characterised by a variety of sessile cnidarians and sponges. The most abundant habitat-forming species includes the scleractinians (stony corals) *Madrepora oculata* and *Lophelia pertusa*, the antipatharian (black coral) *Leiopathes glaberrima* and the alcyonaceans *Corallium rubrum* and *Swiftia pallida*. The sponge *Hexadella dedritifera* and the barnacle *Pachylasma giganteum* are also highly abundant, and the critically endangered bamboo coral *Isidella elongata* is found to be associated with reef habitats in this area. Several other less abundant habitat-forming species include the cnidarians *Acanthogorgia* sp., *Bebryce mollis*, *Callogorgia verticillata*, *Chironophthya mediterranea*, *Dendrobrachia bonsai*, *Muriceides lepida*, and *Placogorgia* spp., and the poriferan cf. *Pachastrella monilifera*. A high diversity of associated fauna (especially sponges, echinoderms, molluscs, crustaceans and fish) is also present. Sedimentary bottoms in the vicinity of the reefs includes the cnidarians *Funiculina quadrangularis*. The information was gathered through the LIFE BaHAR for N2K project (LIFE12NAT/MT/000845). The site hosts a concentration of *Caretta caretta* population as identified by the LIFE Migrate project (LIFE11 NAT/MT1070). The average density for Malta is between 0.4 to 7.2 specimens per square kilometre. The area likely serves as a migratory corridor and foraging site for this species, with a higher occupancy by juveniles and sub-adults although more scientific evidence would be required to confirm this. *Tursiops truncatus* is present in all waters around Malta at a rather uniform distribution. Clearly identifiable areas representing the physical and biological factors essential to the life and reproduction of the *Tursiops truncatus* have not been found through the scientific surveys carried out by Malta so far, also as part of the LIFE Migrate project (LIFE11 NAT/MT1070). Note: An extensive area of this site was initially proposed as an SCI in 2016 (MT0000110), together with an SPA; following an extension in 2018 of the SCI (confirmed in 2017), MT0000110 was retained as an SPA, while the SCI with the extended area given the site code MT0000116.

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 | M01.01 | | b |
| L | F02.01 | | b |

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

| | | | |
|---|--------|--|---|
| L | M02.01 | | b |
| L | M02.03 | | b |
| L | F02.03 | | b |
| L | H03.03 | | b |
| M | F02.02 | | b |
| L | M02.02 | | 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

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 type="checkbox"/> | Yes |
| <input checked="" 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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