



# 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 **MT0000118**  
SITENAME **Żona fil-Baħar fl-inħawi tal-Majjistral tal-Graben ta' Malta**

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## 1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

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<b>1.1 Type</b> B	<b>1.2 Site code</b> MT0000118
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### 1.3 Site name

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

<b>1.4 First Compilation date</b> 2018-05	<b>1.5 Update date</b> 2019-09
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### 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

<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

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

**Longitude**

13.8327

**Latitude**

36.2126

### 2.2 Area [ha]:

10720.46

### 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			1735.75		G	A	A	B	B
8330				5	G			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

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### 4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N01	100.0

<b>Total Habitat Cover</b>	100
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**Other Site Characteristics**

Variations in depth are recorded in this particular site which vary from 186 m at the top of a plateau running along the north-eastern edge of the area to over 1000 m in the north-eastern corner. A plateau leading to a steep escarpment is present in the north-eastern half and then dropping down to depths exceeding 1000m. The south-eastern part is characterized by a sloping soft bottom extending from 230 m to depths beyond 600 m. The seafloor is uniform without any rocky outcrops excluding the escarpment.

**4.2 Quality and importance**

This site is characterised by caves and reef assemblages. The most abundant habitat-forming species include the scleractinian (stony coral) *Madrepora oculata*, and the alcyonacean *Callogorgia verticillata*. Several other less abundant habitat-forming species are also encountered, including species of conservation interest, such as antipatharians (including *Leiopathes glaberrima*), the stony coral *Lophelia pertusa* and the precious red coral *Corallium rubrum*. Other relevant habitat-forming species include the cnidarians *Acanthogorgia* sp., *Bebryce mollis*, *Callogorgia verticillata*, *Chironephthya mediterranea*, *Dendrobrachia bonsai*, *Dendrophyllia cornigera*, *Muriceides lepida*, and *Placogorgia* spp., the poriferans *Hexadella dedritifera* and cf. *Pachastrella monilifera*, and the barnacle *Pachylasma giganteum*. A high diversity of associated fauna (especially sponges, echinoderms, molluscs, crustaceans and fish) is also present. Sessile species present in the mouth of caves are the same as those associated with the adjacent reef escarpment while some mobile species that are also typical of deep-water reefs, particularly the shrimps *Plesionika* spp., are observed in some of the caves.

**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	F02.01		b
L	M02.01		b
L	H03.03		b
L	D03.02		b
L	F02.02		b
L	M01.01		b
L	F02.03		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:**

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**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:**

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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

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INSPIRE ID: MT.ERA.MT0000118

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).