



## Environmental Permit

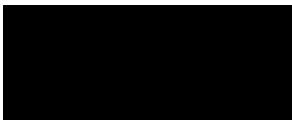
Environment Protection Act (CAP. 549)

Permit number:  
**NP0014/20**

Approved documents  
**NP0014/20/9A**

The Environment and Resources Authority (hereinafter the Authority; the Competent Authority or ERA) in exercise of its powers under the Environment Protection Act (CAP. 549), hereby authorises:

**Ms Clare Marie Mifsud** [REDACTED] (hereinafter "the Permit Holder"), Of / Whose Registered Office (or principal place of business) is at



**Renewal of NP 0390/18- Rescue and rehabilitation of bats**

**At all locations except Filfla, Fungus Rock, Selmunett**

The validity of this permit is **up to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**. An application for renewal of this permit is to be submitted at least **one (1) month** prior to expiry of this permit.

Signed	Date
<p style="text-align: center;">Anthony Aquilina Unit Manager (Permitting) F/ Director Environment and Resources</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Permit Granted: 03/03/2020</p>

**Authorised to sign on behalf of the Competent Authority**

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## Conditions

### Introductory Note

The Environment and Resources Authority (ERA) is hereby granting you renewal of the permission in accordance with the provisions of the Environment Protection Act and Regulation 18(2) of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (S.L. 549.44), hereinafter referred to as the Regulations, for the purpose of handling of protected species found within Special Areas of Conservation (SACs) and Special Protection Areas (SPAs).

The renewal of this permission is also granted in accordance with Regulation 43(a)(b)(e) of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2006 (S.L. 549.44), for the purpose of exempting the permit holder from the prohibitions referred to in regulation 25(1) of the same Regulations, on the pursuing, taking, capturing, temporary keeping and reintroduction of live specimens into the wild (of specimens captured from the wild only), in the interest of protection of wild fauna in line with Regulation 44(a)(d) of S.L.549.44.

The activity shall, subject to the conditions of this Permit, be managed, controlled and carried out as described in the NP Application, approved documents, and/or as otherwise previously agreed in writing by the Authority.

### Status Log

Detail	Date
<i>Application NP0090/16 issued</i>	08/02/2017
<i>Application NP0270/17 issued</i>	01/01/2018
<i>Application NP0390/18 issued</i>	12/12/2018
<i>Application NP0014/20</i>	20/12/2019
<i>Permit Issued</i>	03/03/2020

### Permitted Activities

1. The Permit Holder is authorised to carry out the activities and the associated activities specified in Table 1

Activity	Description of specified activity	Limits of specified activity
Handling of protected specimens of <i>Chiroptera</i>	Rescue of injured bats found in the wild and sampling of tissues as specified in method statement NP0014/20/1B	(i) Collection of injured <i>Chiroptera</i> specimen; (ii) Rehabilitation by permit holder or by licensed veterinarian; (iii) Following rehabilitation, re-introduction of specimen where collected, unless relocation is required; (iv) Collection of tissue sample from specimen, in case of death, and keeping of specimen in the freezer at the University of Malta for further studies.

## Site

2. The activities authorised under condition 1 shall be affected in all locations around the Maltese Islands excluding Filfla, Fungus Rock and Selmunett Islands, unless covered by a specific permit.

## Conditions of Activity/Work

3. Collection of live specimens shall be in accordance with the Method Statement at NP0014/20/1B. Standard medical procedures that respect the welfare of the animal should be employed. Necessary clearances in this respect should be sought by the permit holder from the relevant entities.
4. This permit is valid for the pursuing, taking, capturing, temporary keeping, rehabilitation and reintroduction of live specimens into the wild of the following *chiroptera* found in the wild in Malta for the purpose of rescue and rehabilitation:
  - a) *Hypsugo savii*;
  - b) *Myotis punicus*;
  - c) *Pipistrellus kuhlii*;
  - d) *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*;
  - e) *Plecotus gaisleri*;
  - f) *Rhinolophus hipposideros* and
  - g) *Tadarida teniotis*.
5. This permit does not cover the taking of any live healthy specimens from the wild unless any such specimen needs to be treated or re-located in accordance with the above criteria.
6. The activities covered by this permit are restricted to the Permit Holder.
7. The permit holder shall ensure that disturbance (and related activities such as pursuing, taking, capturing, keeping, transporting) of any specimen of any other species is kept to a minimum and only considered when absolutely necessary for its well-being.
8. Collected grounded or injured bats will be kept in separate carton boxes with adequate ventilation and equipped with cloths for warmth. Handling of bats for feeding, weighing, measuring and monitoring shall be performed by the permit holder according to the "Bat Care Guidelines: A Guide to Bat Care for Rehabilitators" set up by Bat Conservation Trust (UK).
9. The keeping of any specimens should be limited to the time required for surgical interventions, medical procedures, post operation observation and rehabilitation. All rehabilitation should be directed and monitored by a veterinary surgeon and the Permit holder.
10. Rehabilitated specimens are to be released as close to the point of collection as possible without any unnecessary delay.
11. Should veterinary care be required for the specimens that are in the care of the permit holder, this should be sought by reporting on [info@naturetrustmalta.org](mailto:info@naturetrustmalta.org) or 99999505 and ERA's Compliance and Enforcement Directorate on [ced.nature@era.org.mt](mailto:ced.nature@era.org.mt) or 99210404.
12. Killing/ destroying of any specimen is to be considered only upon advice of a veterinary surgeon and only when there is no possibility of recovery/ rehabilitation of the specimen concerned. Such activities should only be carried out by registered veterinary surgeons.

13. Any surgical intervention carried out on live specimens should be carried out by a licensed veterinary surgeon. Standard medical procedures that respect the welfare of the animal should be employed.
14. The keeping of specimens whether alive or dead and samples thereof, is to be limited only within registered veterinary clinics of licensed veterinary surgeons or the permit holder's residence unless otherwise approved by ERA in writing in advance of use of alternative facilities.
15. This Permit does not cover the taking of samples from live specimens, unless required for the diagnosis of any medical condition and intervention on the animal.

ERA may utilise any samples taken for any research at the Authority's discretion.

16. The Permit Holder may keep samples from, or whole specimens of dead specimens for identification, veterinary purposes and for the performing of necropsies for the establishment of the cause of death. If necessary, samples of the dead specimen may be sent abroad for DNA testing and for any other medical tests. Copies of the test results and necropsy report shall be submitted to ERA along with the report to be submitted as per condition 27 of this permit.
17. Prior to transferring the samples to a foreign laboratory in the European Union for further testing, the Permit holder shall inform ERA at least seven (7) days prior to the transfer and shall provide the full address of the location where the samples are being transferred. No transfer shall occur unless approved by ERA in writing in advance of the transfer.
18. Carcasses may either be preserved, handed over to individuals in possession of a prior permit from ERA for the collection and testing of such specimens, or be appropriately destroyed/disposed of by incineration at the WasteServ Malta Thermal Treatment Facility at Marsa. The final destruction of the carcass shall be communicated to ERA as part of the report and rescue report. A copy of the receipt of destruction is to be forwarded to ERA within one (1) week of the activity on [nature.permitting@era.org.mt](mailto:nature.permitting@era.org.mt) as per condition 27 of this permit.

## **General Conditions**

19. The 'Permit Holder', is responsible to ensure that all reasonable precautions are taken so that the activity conforms to the conditions in this Permit and the procedures outlined within the Permit application.
20. The activities covered by this permit are restricted to the permit holder, employees and/or volunteers and contracted parties commissioned for such activities/works under his supervision and direction, who shall all be made aware of this permit and the contents within.
21. The Permit holder is not exempt from any other legislation or regulations, codes of practice, conditions or requirements imposed by any other competent authorities, including the obtaining of permits, licenses, or clearances to undertake works authorised by this permit, including from site owners.
22. The following activities are strictly prohibited:

- a. the deliberate picking, collection, taking, cutting, uprooting, harming, destroying or damaging deliberately destroying, keeping, transporting, selling, buying exchanging, offering for sale or for exchange, importing or exporting in any way of any specimen of wild flora;
  - b. the deliberate hunting, killing, capturing, taking, harming, disturbance particularly during periods of breeding, rearing, hibernation and migration, destruction and deterioration of breeding sites or resting places, pursuing, taking or attempting to take, deliberately killing or attempting to kill, deliberately destroying, keeping, transporting, selling, buying exchanging, offering for sale or for exchange, importing or exporting any specimen of any specimen of wild fauna, unless as permitted;
23. ERA may request updates and/or further information on the activity in question as deemed necessary
24. The conditions imposed shall be adhered to throughout all the activities. Failure to do so may result in enforcement action and cessation of any related works or activities.
25. The Authority may add, amend, suspend or revoke this permit or part of this permit in cases of fraud, where public safety or significant environmental damage or risk is concerned, where there is an error on the face of the record or where there is a breach of one or more permit conditions after a written warning is given by the Authority or in any eventuality that gives the Authority enough reason to suspend or revoke this permit.
26. The Permit Holder may apply for a variation of the permit and shall seek the Authority's written agreement prior to any operational changes, by sending to the Authority:
- a. Written notice of the details of the proposed change, including an assessment of its possible effects or risks to the environment from the approved activity;
  - b. Any relevant supporting information;
  - c. Any relevant supporting assessments and drawings, and;
  - d. The proposed implementation date.

Any such change shall only be implemented following the issue of a variation of the permit by the Authority.

27. Within 1 week of a rescue and/or release of a specimen, a brief report is to be submitted to the Authority on [ced.nature@era.org.mt](mailto:ced.nature@era.org.mt) with details of the capture, whether the specimen was referred for veterinary care, kept (and where) or released (and where), and other relevant details such as the destruction form, in accordance with a report template available at <http://era.org.mt/en/PublishingImages/Pages/Nature-Permitting/Rescue%20report%20template.doc>.

The permit holder is to submit an updated list of all specimens handled every month on [ced.nature@era.org.mt](mailto:ced.nature@era.org.mt).

In accordance with Regulation 46(4) of S.L. 549.44, a detailed yearly report of the activities held is to be provided to ERA by the Permit Holder by **31<sup>st</sup> January 2021**, and is to be submitted to [ced.nature@era.org.mt](mailto:ced.nature@era.org.mt).

Such report should include:

- a) a list of the species and the number of specimens handled, if any, for each case, clearly stating cases of uncertain/difficult identification (indicating the individuals involved);
- b) information about the locality and date where the authorised activities took place (indicating the individuals involved);

- c) photographs of the specimen/s, and immediate area/s of taking (where possible);
- d) an account of the health state of each specimen and a description of the necessary action taken;
- e) results/outcome of action taken;
- f) information on the interventions carried out such as flea removal, medical treatment (intravenous or otherwise) and necropsies, and cause of death if applicable;
- g) a list of specimens released back into the wild, date of release and release point;
- h) any relevant identification/tag numbers;
- i) any other relevant information;
- j) an indication of the information that should be treated as confidential as outlined in Regulation 48 of S.L.549.44

Nil reports, where applicable, are also to be submitted. Reports are to be submitted in accordance with a report template available at [https://era.org.mt/en/PublishingImages/Pages/Nature-Permitting/Monthly\\_Quarterly%20report%20on%20species.docx](https://era.org.mt/en/PublishingImages/Pages/Nature-Permitting/Monthly_Quarterly%20report%20on%20species.docx).

A copy of any resulting publications, scientific papers, dissertations, theses, articles and/or videos resulting from any study carried out in relation to the specimens and activities for which this Permit is being issued shall reach ERA within three months from the date of publication/finalisation as the case may be. Such studies shall clearly indicate that they were possible following Permit/s issued by the ERA.

- 28. Any accidental handling, capture or collection of specimens or part thereof, whether dead or alive, of species listed within Schedule V and VI, and endemic species not listed in Schedule X of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.44) shall be reported on [nature.permitting@era.org.mt](mailto:nature.permitting@era.org.mt) within seven (7) days of sampling of the specimen provided that the permit holder may only keep such specimen or part thereof for scientific research purposes. The Authority may request additional information from the permit holder, including but not limited to, an application for authorisation for the keeping of such specimens or samples.
- 29. The Authority may add, amend, delete or substitute any of the conditions of this permit after notifying the Permit Holder of its intention and after describing the changes to the Permit Holder. This is without prejudice to any prevailing circumstances that would preclude the Authority from following such a procedure.
- 30. The Authority may suspend or revoke this environmental permit in line with the provisions of CAP 549.
- 31. The Permit Holder shall notify the following matters to the Authority in writing at least 10 working days prior to their occurrence:
  - a. Any change in the Permit Holder's trading name, registered name or registered office address;
  - b. Any change to particulars of the Permit Holder's corporate identity.
- 32. Upon the joint application of a Permit Holder and a proposed transferee, the Permit Holder may request to transfer an environment permit. The permit shall not be transferred from the Permit Holder without prior approval from the Authority. Upon the Authority's decision to transfer the permit to the transferee, all rights, obligations, liabilities shall subsist onto the transferee.
- 33. In accordance with Regulation 47 of S.L. 549.44, details of the Permit Holder together with the details of conditions imposed in this Permit shall be maintained by the Authority in a register available for public inspection or maintained in electronic form.
- 34. ERA may inspect and monitor the activity at the expense of the Permit holder at rate and arrangement communicated by ERA's Compliance and Enforcement Directorate

to ensure the safeguarding of the natural assets. ERA may also appoint other on-site monitors at the expense of the Permit Holder to act as an on-site liaison between the Permit Holder and ERA if the case arises.

35. The Authority's representatives may inspect and photograph any part of the site/ activity and ask for any closed or locked areas to be opened and may demand to be provided with any proof, documentation, plans, receipts or any other records.
36. This Permit including any Variation Notices or amendments to it shall be made available for any inspection by ERA officials at all times, or any legally recognised compliance and enforcement officials, when requested.
37. Whenever there is a conflict between the conditions of this permit and approved documents, the conditions of the permit shall prevail.
38. ERA shall not be held liable for any accidents or injuries which may occur during the activities being permitted through this Permit. It is the responsibility of the Permit Holder to ensure that all safety measures are taken.
39. This permit is without prejudice to any liability of the permit holder under the Act and to any punitive measures the Authority may wish to take with respect to works already carried out without permit.
40. The validity of this permit is until **31<sup>st</sup> December 2020**. The Permit Holder may apply for a renewal to this permit expressing his/her intention at least four (4) weeks prior to the expiry of this permit. Request for renewals shall only be considered upon confirmation of compliance with permit conditions and fulfilment of documentation as requested by this permit.
41. Any aggrieved person may appeal from this decision before the Environment and Review Tribunal within 30 days in terms of Article 63 of the Environment Protection Act.



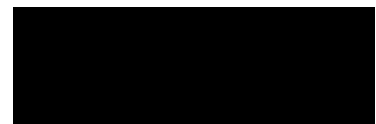
### 3.2 Attachment 2: Project Description - Bat Rescue and Rehabilitation

1. Aim of project: To rescue and rehabilitate grounded or injured bats
2. Justification for project: This project contributes to bat conservation by rescuing and rehabilitating individual bats. This project also contributes to educating the public about the importance of reporting these cases to safeguard bats in our environment. This project also encourages the positive perception of bats. From a scientific point of view, rescuing and rehabilitating bats allows us to gather information about their behaviour in order to help us understand their biology and hence further contribute to their conservation.
3. Brief Project Outline: This project involves collecting any bat that is reported to be either grounded or injured. Once an individual bat is collected it is checked for injuries and other signs of dehydration and starvation. If injured the individual bat is taken to a vet. If dehydrated and starved, the individual bat is fed and given water as needed until it has completely rehabilitated. The individual bats are monitored to see their progress. Once fully rehabilitated these bats are released back to the wild exactly where they were found and collected.

The following is a list of bat species that may be found in Malta:

- A) *Hypsugo savii*
- B) *Myotis punicus*
- C) *Pipistrellus kuhlii*
- D) *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*
- E) *Plecotus gaisleri*
- F) *Rhinolophus hipposideros*
- G) *Tadarida teniotis*

4. Starting date: 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020. Estimated duration of project: indefinite.
5. Geographical area: Malta, Gozo and Comino
6. Persons involved: The applicant will be collecting, rescuing and rehabilitating bats
7. Access to area: By car and by foot



8. Description of method: Grounded or injured bats are collected and handled with protective gloves. Collected bats will be transported and kept within a box equipped with a microfiber cloth for comfort and an adequate number of holes for ventilation. The number of bats to be collected can range from 1 – 10 individuals. In case the individual bat dies while under my care due to the previous injuries, the dead specimen will be kept and a tissue sample from the wing membrane will be taken from the dead specimen using a biopsy punch. The dead specimens will be kept in a -80°C freezer at the University of Malta under the care of the Conservation Biology Research Group.

9. Safety equipment: Standard First aid box

10. The method to rescue and rehabilitate bats follows the Bat Conservation Trust Bat Care Guidelines: [www.bats.org.uk/publications\\_download.php/1110/Bat\\_Care\\_Guidelines.pdf\\_ok](http://www.bats.org.uk/publications_download.php/1110/Bat_Care_Guidelines.pdf_ok)

