



Environmental Permit

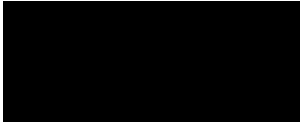
Environment Protection Act (CAP. 549)

Permit number:
NP0016/20

Approved documents
NP0016/20/9A

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 NP0392/18- Study of bat roosting sites

At all locations except Filfla, Fungus Rock, Selmunett

The validity of this permit is **up to 31st 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 NP0094/16 issued</i>	13/02/2017
<i>Application NP0274/17 issued</i>	01/01/2018
<i>Application NP0392/18 issued</i>	12/12/2018
<i>Application NP0016/20</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

Table 1.

Activity	Description of specified activity	Limits of specified activity
Study of protected specimens of <i>Chiroptera</i>	Study of bat roosting sites and collection of faecal samples as specified in method statement NP0016/20/9A	(i) Observing and counting of the population of <i>Chiroptera</i> specimens in a particular bat roost; (ii) Collection of faecal samples during the sunset when bats are foraging for food outside the roost.

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 NP0016/20/9A. 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. The methodology of study shall be in accordance with the method statement at NP0016/20/9A. Care should be taken when a flashlight is used after sunset, to avoid unnecessary disturbance to species sensitive to light by using shaded light and directing light towards the ground as much as possible.
9. No physical modification shall be allowed in the areas where the absorbent sheet will be laid beneath roosting bats into which droppings will be collected. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to ensure that no unnecessary harm is caused to the environment, either intentionally or accidentally.
10. When placing the plastic sheet in any roost, it should be ensured that not more than half of the guano in the roost is covered. Specifically when considering L-Għar I-lburdan, the collection of droppings shall be carried out for a maximum of two (2) times per year, once in winter and once in spring.

General Conditions

11. 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.
12. 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.
13. 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.

14. 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, except as permitted.
15. ERA may request updates and/or further information on the activity in question as deemed necessary
16. 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.
17. 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.
18. 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.

19. In accordance with Regulation 46(4) of S.L. 549.44, a brief report with photos of the activities held, including any publications as a result of the activity, is to be provided to ERA by the Permit Holder within one month of the expiry of the permit, and is to be submitted to nature.permitting@era.org.mt. Information that should be treated as confidential as outlined in Regulation 48(4) of S.L. 549.44 shall be specified.

A template for the report is available at <http://era.org.mt/en/Documents/Activity%20Report%20template.doc>. The report is also to include photographs of the plagiopatagium that has been used for the taking of the small tissue sample.

Nil reports, where applicable, are also to be submitted.

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.

20. 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 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.
21. 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.
22. The Authority may suspend or revoke this Environmental Permit in line with the provisions of CAP 549.
23. 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.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. 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.
27. 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.
28. 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.
29. Whenever there is a conflict between the conditions of this Permit and approved documents, the conditions of the Permit shall prevail.
30. 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.

31. 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.
32. The validity of this permit is until **31st 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.
33. 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.

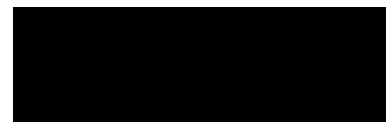
3.3 Attachment 2: Project Description –Monitoring of bat roosting sites and collection of droppings

1. Aim of project: Ph.D. project to study the diet of different bat species and obtain faecal samples found beneath roosting bats.
2. Justification for project: Knowledge of life history stages and roosting ecology can be obtained. Diet analyses of bats will give information on their preferred prey type and hence understand the value of bats in regulating insect pest populations. The results from this research project will contribute towards the conservation of these ecologically important species through improved scientific knowledge for policy-making, education and public awareness.
3. Brief Project Outline: Monitoring of important bat roosts to assess their state throughout the years and identify any negative impacts or threats. Monitoring of bat roosts will allow us to understand their life history stages and their roosting ecology. If faecal samples are obtained, diet analysis of individual bat species will be carried out.

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: 1st January 2020. Estimated duration of project: one year.
5. Geographical area: Malta, Gozo and Comino
6. Persons involved: 2 people
7. Access to area: By car and by foot



8. Description of method: Individual bats will be counted while resting in their roost without any disturbances using red light head torch and infra-red camera and staying at least 3 meters away from these roosting bats. Each roosting site will be visited once each season to confirm their presence in the different seasons. Each roosting site will be visited once in summer, once in spring, once in autumn and once in winter. If bats are found in summer, autumn or spring in their roosting site, the number of bats will be counted during the occurrence period once each year. Entry to these seasonal roosts to collect droppings, if needed, will only occur when bats are not present, i.e. after sunset once all the bats exit their roost to go and forage. To confirm that all bats have left their roost, monitoring from outside the roost entry point will be conducted. Once the bats have left the roost, entry into the roost will be limited for 30 minutes to gather a sample of droppings and leave the roost well before the bats return back to the roost. This will completely limit disturbance to roosting bats. An absorbent sheet will be left beneath the area of the roosting bats without completely covering the whole area of the droppings. The droppings from the adsorbent sheet will be collected the following day following the same methodology i.e. entry to the roost will be limited only to when the bats are out of their roost and are foraging outside of their roost. In the case bats are found in winter roosts, entry to these roosts will be limited to once in the middle of winter to count the number of bats present and take note of the species. Winter roosts will not be disturbed throughout the winter to limit any disturbance to hibernating bats and only one visit per year will be conducted to monitor the population of winter roosting bats. Winter monitoring would otherwise be done from outside the roost by monitoring the entry/exit points from the outside of the roosting site.

9. Safety equipment: Standard First aid box

