



Environmental Permit

Environment Protection Act (CAP. 549)

Permit number:
NP0108/20

Approved documents
NP0108/20/1B/2

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:

Mr Matthew Grima Connell obo Biodiversity and Water Unit (hereinafter “the Permit Holder”), Of / Whose Registered Office (or principal place of business) is at

**Environment and Resources Authority
Hexagon House
Spencer Hill
Marsa MRS1441**

to carry out a vegetation survey at

Filfla Island

The validity of this permit is **up to 31st March 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 data-bbox="332 1564 771 1644">Anthony Aquilina Unit Manager (Permitting) F/ Director Environment and Resources</p>	<p data-bbox="885 1564 1226 1591">Permit Granted: 27 / 02 / 2020</p>

Authorised to sign on behalf of the Competent Authority

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Conditions

Introductory Note

The permit is granted 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 the activities that shall be carried out within the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) and Special Protected Area (SPA) of Filfla u l-Gżejjer ta' Madwarha (MT0000016).

This permit is also being issued in line with the Filfla u l-Gżejjer ta' Madwarha Conservation order (G.N. 1377 of 2016).

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 NP0108/20</i>	<i>27/02/2020</i>
<i>Permit Issued</i>	<i>27/02/2020</i>

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
Survey	Vegetation survey as per approved Project Description NP0108/20/1B	(i) Activities to take place on Friday 28/02/2020 between 0600 and 1600hrs.

Site

2. The activities authorised under condition 2 shall be affected in the locations as marked on the approved site plan NP0180/20/2.

Conditions of Activity/Work

3. Activities are to be held according to the approved Project Description Statement NP0108/20/1B.
4. The activities covered by this permit are restricted to the Permit Holder and another two (2) individuals under his supervision and direction, who shall all be made aware of this permit and the contents within.
5. This permit is only valid for the purpose of access to Filfla via helicopter for conducting a vegetation survey as shown in approved plan NP0108/20/1B.

6. A maximum of three (3) individuals are allowed for the visit on the island, including the permit holder.
7. When deploying the drone, special attention should be taken in relation to birds and other fauna, including due to issues of safety. The drone should be deployed only for a maximum of fifteen (15) minutes at a time to minimize the impact of sound and rotor wash.
8. Access to the site by helicopter shall be carried out in such a manner that disturbance or damage to the environment is minimal. When accessing and leaving the island of Filfla, the helicopter shall not be allowed to land but shall be kept hovering above the surface at a safe distance.

Landing of the helicopter shall only to be carried out only in case of emergency circumstances. Should the helicopter be required to land, this should be done on a minimally vegetated area of the plateau and for a minimum amount of time.

9. The permit holder shall ensure that disturbance of any specimen of any species is kept to a minimum. It is the responsibility of the permit holder to ensure that no harm is caused to the environment either intentionally or accidentally. Attention must also be afforded to the whole of the environment of the SAC in view of the protection status of SAC.
6. Rubbish disposal facilities shall be provided by the organisers on the day and any waste generated during the activity is to be collected immediately and disposed of accordingly in accordance with the Waste Management (Activity Registration) Regulations 2007 (S.L. 549.45) and the Waste Regulations, 2011, (S.L. 549.63), including where necessary through the Consignment Permit procedure.

General Conditions

7. 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.
8. 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.
9. 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;
 - c. cutting or damaging of reeds, tree branches etc;
 - d. generation of excessive noise, or light pollution through the use of floodlights;

- e. disposal, discharge or spillage of oil, fuel, paint or other pollutants, or of solid waste, ash or combustibles;
 - f. lighting of fires.
11. ERA may request updates and/or further information on the activity in question as deemed necessary
 12. 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.
 13. 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.
 14. 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.

15. 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>.

16. Any accidental handling, capture or collective 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 Regulations shall be reported on nature.permitting@era.org.mt within seven (7) days of sampling/ identification of the specimen. Additional information on authorisations, keeping of such specimens or samples may be requested from the permit holder.
17. 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.
18. The Authority may suspend or revoke this environmental permit in line with the provisions of CAP 549.
19. 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.

20. Upon the joint application of a Permit Holder and a proposed transferee, the Authority may transfer the nature permit to the proposed transferee. The transfer of the permit will not relieve any of the Permit Holders from their environmental obligations and liabilities.
21. 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.
22. 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.
23. Whenever there is a conflict between the conditions of this permit and approved documents, the conditions of the permit shall prevail.
24. 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.
25. 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.
26. The validity of this permit is until **31st March 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.
27. 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.

Project Description

1. Aim of Project:

Vegetation survey of the island of Filfla using a UAV.

2. Justification for project. What is the value of the project in scientific and educational terms?

Habitat surveillance and mapping is an obligation arising from the Habitats Directive

3. Brief project outline;

Three ERA officials will visit the island and survey the area on the plateau to describe the habitats, and species present. This will be done with a drone, cameras and binoculars.

4. Starting date and estimated duration of project including dates[s] and time[s]. When is/are the handling/collection planned? If possible, provide month[s] and date[s];

The day will be the 28th February . Starting from about 6 am till 4 pm.

5. The site/geographic area of the activity. (The area[s] should be clearly indicated on an official site plan (Attachment 1)). In the case of access from privately owned land, permission will need to be sought from the owner/s. Please specify whether this has been obtained and attach copy of permission;

6. How many persons are involved per visit?;

Three

7. How will be the site be accessed? Provide details of the motor vehicles to be used [e.g. dinghy, car, helicopter, etc.] and how you will reach other parts of the area [e.g. abseiling, walking, diving, etc.];

Helicopter

8. Description of the method to be used for the project;

(Description should also include mode of capture, handling, transport and/or keeping, if applicable. The number of specimens to be collected, clearly justifying the taking, should also be included, even if estimates. In case of sampling from dead specimens, please indicate what sampling tissues or organs are needed for such scientific studied and the number of samples. Please note that in the

case that samples are sent abroad, full justification, a detailed route and the addressee should be provided. If covered by CITES, another permit might be required.)

Samples for identification might be taken as necessary.

9. Safety equipment available, in case of emergency;

First aid kit

10. Any additional information deemed necessary;

Please indicate whether any of the above information should be kept confidential, providing a justification.

Site plan

