

## Environmental Permit

Environment Protection Act (CAP. 549)

Permit number:  
**NP0391/20**

Approved documents  
**NP0391/20/8A**

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:

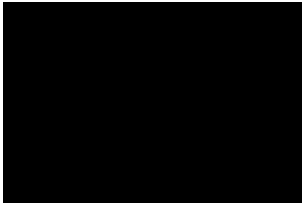
**Ms Claudette Gambin obo Ambjent Malta** (hereinafter “the Permit Holder”), Of / Whose Registered Office (or principal place of business) is at

**Ta’ Qali National Park,  
Ta’ Qali, ATD4000**

Removal of invasive alien species and planting of indigenous trees at

**Is-Salini**

The validity of this permit is **one (1) year** from the granted date below. 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>Anthony Aquilina Unit Manager (Env. Permitting) F/ Director Environment and Resources</p>	<p>Permit Granted: 13/10/ 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 at Kennedy Grove located within the Special Area of Conservation (SAC) of Is-Salini (MT0000007).

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 NP0391/20</i>	12/08/2020
<i>Permit Issued</i>	13 /10/2020

### Pre-Commencement of activities/ work

1. The Permit Holder shall advise of the dates of works at least seven (7) days prior to the commencement on [ced.nature@era.org.mt](mailto:ced.nature@era.org.mt). In the case of change of date, the permit holder is to inform ERA of such a change at least two (2) days in advance. In the case of short-term cancellation of the activity (especially outside office hours), the Authority should be contacted on 9921 0404.

### Permitted Activities

2. 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
Removal of alien species of trees and planting of indigenous trees.	As per approved document NP0391/20/8A	(i) Removal of <i>Acacia</i> spp. alien trees; (ii) Planting of one hundred and fifty (150) indigenous trees namely specimens of <i>Vitex agnus-castus</i> , <i>Nerium oleander</i> and <i>Tamarix africana</i>

### Site

3. The activities authorised under condition 2 shall be affected in the locations as marked on the approved site plan NP0391/20/8A.

### Conditions of Activity/Work

4. Activities are to be held according to the approved Project Description Statement NP0391/20/8A.

5. Access and parking of any vehicles used for works shall be kept to the parking area. Access on natural areas including rocky ground and agricultural land is not allowed. Off-road driving and creation of temporary or permanent access routes, irrespective whether intentional or accidental is prohibited.
6. No habitat or soil engineering or contouring shall take place.
7. Planting of one hundred and fifty (150) medium sized, indigenous trees of local stock namely specimens of *Vitex agnus-castus*, *Nerium oleander* and *Tamarix africana* shall take place in accordance with approved method statement NP0391/20/8A. Planted trees shall be appropriately spaced in accordance with good arboricultural practice to allow space for the specimens to grow. Planted trees shall be maintained by the permit holder for a period of three (3) years from planting, including necessary aftercare such as watering, weeding and pruning as may be required.

The Authority shall be notified immediately should any of the identified species and their numbers identified in the approved method statement in line within this condition, not be planted on site, quoting reasons for deviations from the approved plan.

8. The specimens to be planted shall all be of local stock.
9. Removal of alien species of flora shall be carried out in accordance with the methodology described in the approved method statement NP0391/20/8A and in accordance with the methodology on the "Guidelines on managing non-native plant invaders and restoring native plant communities in terrestrial settings in the Maltese Islands" found at <https://era.org.mt/en/Documents/PlantInvaders-RestorationGuidelines-MEPA-2013.pdf>.
10. Removed alien species shall be shredded (either on site or in a permitted waste disposal facility) in a contained manner and carted away with securely covered waste carriers registered in accordance with the requirements of the Waste Management (Activity Registration) Regulations 2007 (S.L.549.45) and Waste Regulations 2011 (S.L.549.63).

Otherwise, debris from AIS shall be destroyed on site through incineration through controlled fires. No open fires are allowed and controlled fires are only being permitted for the incineration of any plant and tree debris within an appropriate enclosed skip.

Fires are prohibited in wind forecasts of Force 4 or stronger, and are to be entirely spent before sunset.

The Permit Holder is to inform ERA on the chosen process concerning disposal of the removed alien species seven (7) days prior to the carrying out of the procedure as well as provide details on this in the report of the activities held that is to be submitted in line with condition 19.

Certificates of destruction at the waste facility are also to be provided to ERA along with the report of the activities held.

11. All reasonable precautions are to be taken to keep the site and its surroundings clean.

The permit holder is responsible for the collection and disposal of any litter, refuse or waste originated during the activity. The site shall be cleaned and restored to its original condition, without causing any harm to the protected area and the surrounding environment.

Rubbish disposal facilities shall be provided by the organisers 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.

12. All works shall take place between sunrise and sunset.

### **General Conditions**

13. 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.
14. 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 her supervision and direction, who shall all be made aware of this Permit and the contents within.
15. 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, except as permitted;
  - 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. planting of vegetation, shrubs and/or trees or the introduction of any flora or fauna into the site or its environs except as permitted;
  - e. introduction, removal, significant movement and re-engineering, and/or collection of sand, shingle, stone, soil and/or sediment;
  - f. excavation works and any physical modification of the vegetation cover, the ground and landform of the site and its surroundings;
  - g. generation of excessive noise, including extremely loud music or the use of noisy generators, or light pollution through the use of floodlights;
  - h. disposal, discharge or spillage of oil, fuel, paint or other pollutants, or of solid waste, ash or combustibles;
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. ERA may impose other additional rules or conditions, or may amend one or more of the listed rules or conditions, as it deems necessary for the proper conservation of a protected site or area, biodiversity and the environment in general, and to ensure public safety.

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](mailto: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>

20. This permit is granted saving third party rights. 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 including from site owners.
21. 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.
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. The Authority may carry out regular pre-set or unannounced compliance or monitoring checks that vary in frequency according to the site's compliance with the permit conditions and safeguarding of natural assets. Any checks or audits carried out by the Authority may be made at the Permit Holder's financial expense at rate and arrangement communicated by ERA's Compliance and Enforcement Directorate. 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 for one (1) year** from the date of issue of the permit. 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 party may appeal from this decision to the Environment and Planning Review Tribunal in accordance with Article 63 of the Environment Protection Act and with the provisions of the Environment and Planning Review Tribunal Act.

# Salina Nature Park

## *Method Statement for the Habitat Restoration of a Marshland Area adjacent to Kennedy Grove*

### PROJECT OVERVIEW

This application is for the habitat restoration of a marshland area across from the Salini salt pens. Habitat restoration of the site will involve the removal of invasive alien species, which consist of Acacia trees and the planting of indigenous riparian trees and shrub species.

### SITE DESCRIPTION

The area is a flat flood plain which receives water from the surrounding fields. It is currently planted with olive trees that were transplanted there from another area, in the recent past. The olive trees are clearly not adapted to the saline conditions of the site, since they are showing signs of salt intolerance and the new growth is stunted. Several Acacia trees are present on site. These are situated along the canal which carries flood water to the water channel that surrounds the Salini salt pens. Plant species of interest which are present in the surrounding area include *Phragmites australis* and *Populus alba*.



Figure 1: Site to be restored (outlined in red)



## REMOVAL OF IAS

The IAS present on site consist of *Acacia spp.* which are growing along the canal. The infestation is localised.

The following measures shall be taken to ensure complete eradication of these IAS:

Species	Methodology
<i>Acacia spp.</i>	The trees will first be removed with hand saws. Hand pulling of seedlings shall be carried out after the mother trees are removed. Regular monitoring shall take place to check for emergence of seedlings. These shall be removed by hand. Removal of the mother trees shall be carried out before they set seed. Since the sites where the <i>Acacia</i> trees are found are easily accessible, mother trees shall be removed using a small excavator in order to uproot them completely.

Plant debris from the IAS removed shall be transported in a registered truck that can be securely covered. The debris from all IAS shall be transported to the composting area at the premises of Ambjent Malta in Ta' Qali and incinerated.

The areas where IAS will be removed will be planted with indigenous tree and shrub species indicated in the planting scheme below.

Works will be carried out by Ambjent Malta gardening staff in accordance with the approved method statement. Ambjent Malta scientific staff shall be responsible to oversee activities carried out by the gardening staff and monitor for signs of reappearance of IAS in the area as well as to monitor the general health status of the planted trees and shrubs.

## OLIVE TREES

The olives present on site were transplanted there recently. They are currently in a poor state of health and are suffering from salt stress. These will be untouched by the proposed actions. Although they are clearly not adapted to the site conditions, transplanting shall not be considered.

## SPECIES PROPOSED FOR PLANTING

The species proposed for planting are typical riparian species, which however can tolerate saline conditions and longer periods of drought.

The area to be restored covers 4,970m<sup>2</sup> and a total of around 150 trees are expected to be planted. They shall consist of *Vitex agnus-castus*, *Nerium oleander* and *Tamarix africana*.

Planting shall take place in clusters on the flatter plain (where olive trees are present) and along the waterline as a single cluster, along the channel (where acacia is currently present).

No irrigation system shall be installed.

Planting is expected to take place this winter.

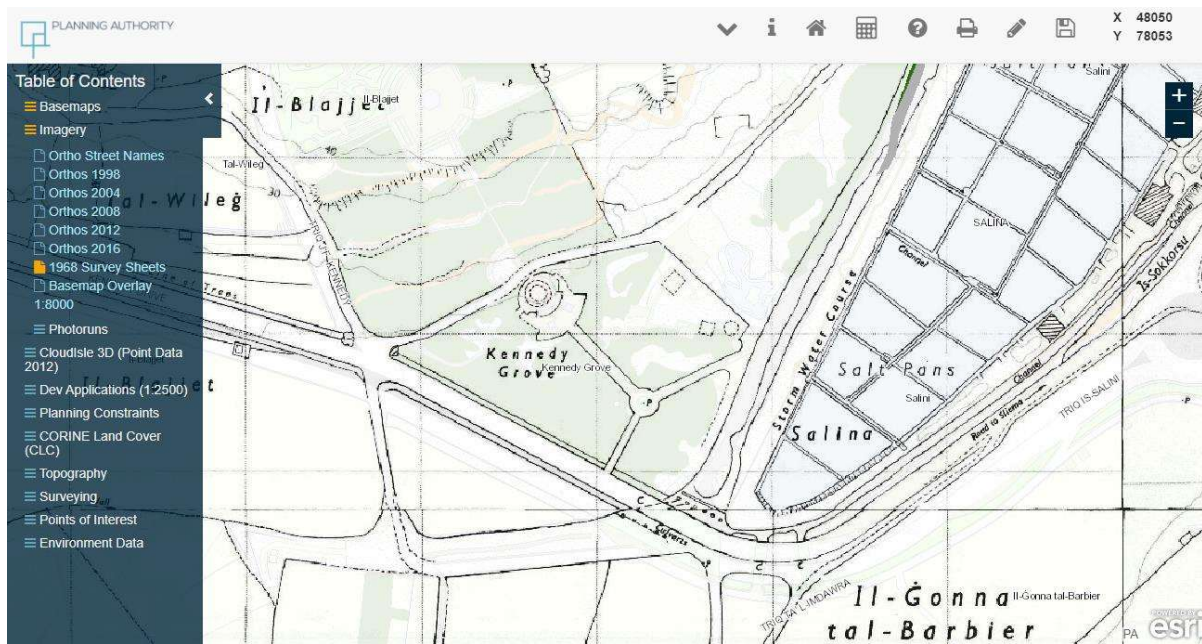


Figure 2: 1968 Survey map of the Site to be restored