

Nru. 34**AWTORITÀ GĦALL-AMBJENT U R-RIŻORSI****Regolament 17A tar-Regolamenti dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Flora, Fawna u Ambjenti Naturali (L.S. 549.44)****Att dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Ambjent (Kap. 549)***Avviż ta' Protezzjoni*

L-AWTORITÀ għall-Ambjent u r-Riżorsi (minn hawnhekk 'il quddiem imsejha 'l-Awtorità') qiegħda tistabilixxi li s-sit li ġej, jiġifieri:

Wied il-Fiddien u Wied il-Qlejgħa (Ir-Rabat, Malta)

(kif indikat f'Tabella 1 f'paġna 51), huwa ta' importanza ekoloġika u xjentifika u għalhekk is-sit qiegħed jiġi ddikjarat bħala Zona Speċjali ta' Konservazzjoni ta' Importanza Nazzjonali bis-saħħa tar-Regolament 9 tar-Regolamenti dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Flora, Fawna u Ambjenti Naturali (L.S. 549.44) u inkluz fin-Network Ekoloġiku Nazzjonali.

Is-sit ser jibbenifika minn aktar miżuri ta' konservazzjoni u, bis-saħħa tas-setgħat mogħtija fir-Regolament 17A tar-Regolamenti dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Flora, Fawna u Ambjenti Naturali (L.S. 549.44), l-Awtorità qiegħda b'dan toħroġ Avviż ta' Protezzjoni fir-rigward tas-sit imsemmi hawn fuq. Dan l-Avviż ta' Protezzjoni ser jikkontribwixxi għall-assigurazzjoni tal-protezzjoni tal-bijodiversità permezz ta' konservazzjoni, manutenzjoni u restawr tal-ambjenti naturali u l-ispeċi fis-sit ikkonċernat, kif ukoll tal-karatteristiċi ġeoloġiċi, ġeomorfoloġiċi u fiżjografiki tiegħu.

Kwalunkwe referenza għal 'Wied il-Fiddien u Wied il-Qlejgħa' jew 'SAC' f'dan l-Avviż ta' Protezzjoni għandha tirreferi għas-sit indikat f'Tabella 1.

L-Awtorità tista' tidhol fi ftehim dwar it-tmexxija skont ir-regolament 15(1) tar-Regolamenti dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Flora, Fawna u Ambjenti Naturali (L.S. 549.44), mal-persuna li tmexxi s-sit għall-implementazzjoni ta' dan l-Avviż ta' Protezzjoni.

Konservazzjoni f'dan il-kuntest tirreferi għal serje ta' miżuri li jirrikjedu li l-ambjenti naturali u l-popolazzjonijiet tal-ispeċi ta' fawna u flora jiġu miżmuma fi stat ta' konservazzjoni favorevoli jew fi stat mhux konċernabbli u jinkludu:

a) kontribuzzjoni għall-istabiliment ta' ambjenti naturali li jiffavorixxu l-bijodiversità;

b) it-titjib tal-istruttura u funzjoni tal-ambjenti naturali, b'attenzjoni partikolari għal ambjenti naturali riparji u tal-

No. 34**ENVIRONMENT AND RESOURCES AUTHORITY****Regulation 17A of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.44)****Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549)***Protection Notice*

THE Environment and Resources Authority (hereinafter 'the Authority') is establishing that the following site, namely:

Wied il-Fiddien and Wied il-Qlejgħa (Ir-Rabat, Malta)

(as indicated in Figure 1 on page 51), is of ecological and scientific importance such that the site is hereby being declared a Special Area of Conservation (SAC) of National Importance by virtue of Regulation 9 of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L.549.44) and included in the National Ecological Network.

The site will benefit from further conservation measures and, by virtue of its powers under Regulation 17A of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.44), the Authority is hereby issuing a Protection Notice in respect of the abovementioned site. This Protection Notice shall contribute towards ensuring the protection of biodiversity through the conservation, maintenance and restoration of the natural habitats and species within the concerned site, as well as that of its geological, geomorphological and physiographic features.

Any reference to 'Wied il-Fiddien and Wied il-Qlejgħa' or 'SAC' in this Protection Notice shall refer to the site indicated in Figure 1.

The Authority may enter into a management agreement in terms of Regulation 15(1) of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (S.L.549.44) with the site managers for the implementation of this Protection Notice.

Conservation in this context refers to the series of measures required to maintain or restore the natural habitats and the population of species of fauna and flora at a favourable or least concern status and include:

a) aiding the establishment of habitats that favour biodiversity;

b) the improvement of the structure and function of the natural habitats, with particular attention to riparian and

widien, billi jiġu restawrati s-saffi ta' veġetazzjoni jew jiġihalla spazju għall-iżvilupp tagħhom;

c) l-istabiliment ta' assoċazzjonijiet u komunitajiet ta' speċi li jmantnu l-livelli trofiċi kollha;

d) l-istabiliment ta' sottostrat adattat u ambjenti naturali li kapaci jsostnu lilhom infushom f'żoni degradati;

e) it-tnaqqis ta' impatti negattivi kkawżati minn speċi invażivi, aljeni u oħrajn mhux mixtieqa; u

f) it-tnaqqis ta' tniġġis ambjentali fis-sit.

A. Kundizzjonijiet Ġenerali

1. Ix-xogħlijiet f'Wied il-Fiddien u Wied il-Qlejgħa għandhom isiru biss jekk jiġu uffiċjalment awtorizzati mill-Awtorità, u minn entitajiet rilevanti oħra. L-Awtorità għandha toħroġ l-awtorizzazzjoni biss meta tkun tal-opinjoni li dawn ix-xogħlijiet huma neċessarji jew adattati għal-konservazzjoni effettiva tas-sit jew, huma meħtieġa minhabba konsiderazzjonijiet oħra li jinkludu aspetti ta' manutenzjoni, sigurtà, saħħa pubblika, valorizzazzjoni tas-sit u aċċess sensitiv.

2. Il-persuna li tmexxi s-sit għandha tiżgura l-manutenzjoni u l-konservazzjoni ta' Wied il-Fiddien u Wied il-Qlejgħa permezz ta' manutenzjoni kontinwa u programm ta' monitoraġġ bl-għan li jzomm jew itejjeb l-istat ta' konservazzjoni u l-istat ta' theddid (kif rilevanti) tal-ambjenti naturali u l-ispeċi fis-sit.

B. Restawr taż-żona li taqa' f'Wied il-Fiddien and Wied il-Qlejgħa

1. Fi żmien sena mill-ħruġ ta' dan l-Avviz, il-persuna li tmexxi s-sit għandha tipprepara u tissottometti lil Awtorità pjan ta' restawr ta' tliet snin li jkopri l-proviżjonijiet ta' din is-Sezzjoni.

2. Il-pjan ta' restawr, li għandu jkopri ż-żona indikata f'Tabella 1, għandu jibda jiġi mplementat mill-persuna li tmexxi s-sit mill-approvazzjoni tal-pjan mill-Awtorità. Dan il-pjan għandu jiġi ssorveljat mill-persuna li tmexxi s-sit fuq bażi annwali sabiex jiġi adattat skont il-bżonn.

3. Il-persuna li tmexxi ps-sit għandha tirrestawra l-ambjenti naturali fiż-żona indikata f'Tabella 1 u tikkontribwixxi għar-riġenerazzjoni ta' speċi tipiċi ta' dawn l-ambjenti naturali f'fażijiet skont il-pjan ta' restawr għaž-żona. Dan il-pjan ta' restawr għandu jinkludi miżuri biex jitnaqqsu l-impatti fuq l-ambjenti naturali, u miżuri sabiex jerga jiġi stabbilit il-qiegħ u l-għubijiet tal-wied, kif xieraq.

4. Il-persuna li tmexxi s-sit għandha tirrestawra l-ambjenti naturali fiż-żona indikata f'Tabella 1 billi jiġihawlu pjanti ta'

valley habitats, by restoring the vegetation strata or allowing space for their development;

c) the establishment of species associations and communities that maintain all trophic levels;

d) the establishment of suitable substrate and self-sustaining habitats in the degraded areas;

e) the reduction of the negative impacts caused by invasive, alien, and other undesirable species; and

f) the minimisation of environmental pollution within the site.

A. General Conditions

1. Works shall only be carried out at Wied il-Fiddien and Wied il-Qlejgħa if officially authorised by the Authority, and any other entity as relevant. The Authority may only issue an authorisation when it is of the opinion that such works are necessary or appropriate for the effective conservation of the site or, are required due to other considerations including maintenance aspects, security, public health and safety, valorisation of the site and sensitive access.

2. The site manager shall ensure the maintenance and conservation of Wied il-Fiddien and Wied il-Qlejgħa through a continuous maintenance and monitoring programme with the aim of maintaining or improving the conservation status and threat status (as relevant) of the habitats and species within the site.

B. Restoration of the area falling within Wied il-Fiddien and Wied il-Qlejgħa

1. Within one year of the issue of this Notice, the site manager shall prepare and submit to ERA a three-year restoration plan covering the provisions of this Section.

2. The restoration plan, which shall cover the area indicated in Figure 1, shall start to be implemented by the site manager upon the approval of the plan by the Authority. Such plan shall be monitored by the site manager annually for any modifications which may be required.

3. The site manager shall restore the natural habitats within the area indicated in Figure 1 and aid in the regeneration of appropriate species typical of such habitats in a phased approach in line with the restoration plan for the area. Such restoration shall include measures to reduce disturbances to natural habitats, as well as measures to re-establish the valley-bed or adjacent slopes, as appropriate.

4. The site manager shall restore the natural habitats of the area indicated in Figure 1 through the planting of

speċi riparjani u tipiċi tal-widien, inkluż siġar, arbuxelli u pjanti oħra tipiċi ta' dawn l-ambjenti naturali.

5. Il-persuna li tmexxi s-sit għandha tneħhi l-ispeċi invażivi u aljeni miż-żona indikata f'Tabella 1. Wara l-ewwel tneħhija, l-persuna li tmexxi s-sit għandha tispezzjona l-istess żona kull sitt xhur sabiex jsiru interventi addizzjonali skont il-bżonn u jitneħhew pjanti mill-istess speċi li jerġgħu jikbru.

C. Xogħol ta' manutenzjoni

Id-disposizzjonijiet taħt din is-Sezzjoni għandhom ikunu limitati għal dawk l-azzjonijiet ta' manutenzjoni regolari magħmula sabiex jiġi presevat l-ilma, il-valur ta' konservazzjoni u l-istabbiltà geomorfika tas-sit.

1. Fi żmien sena mill-ħruġ ta' dan l-Avviż, il-persuna li tmexxi s-sit għandha ttipprepara u tissottometti lill-Awtorità pjan ta' manutenzjoni ta' tliet snin li jkopri l-proviżjonijiet ta' din is-Sezzjoni.

2. Xogħlijiet ta' manutenzjoni għandhom isiru matul ix-xhur ta' bla xita u għandhom jibdeu biss meta l-qiegħ tal-wied u s-sottostrat ikunu kompletament niexfa; iżda l-Awtorità tista' tawtorizza li jsiru dawn xogħlijiet matul staġuni u kundizzjonijiet oħra minħabba raġunijiet prevalenti fl-interess pubbliku jew favur l-ambjent.

3. Ix-xogħolijiet kollha ta' manutenzjoni li jsiru f'Wied il-Fiddien u Wied il-Qlejgħa għandhom jsiru skont il-linji gwida u awtorizzazzjonijiet tal-entitajiet ikkonċernati.

4. L-iskavar, it-tkissir u l-qtuġħ tal-blat huma strettement ipprojbiti, sakemm mhux awtorizzati. Barra minn hekk, meta jsiru x-xogħlijiet ta' skavazzjoni, għandha tittiehed prekawzjoni sabiex jiġi evitat dannu aċċidentali fil-blat. Aktivitajiet ta' tindif u tħammil għandhom ikunu limitati għat-tneħhija ta' ħama, ħamrija u fdalijiet akkumulati mill-wied.

5. Waqt xogħlijiet ta' tindif, żoni sensitivi u li huma magħrufa li jospitaw speċi karatteristiċi ta' flora m'għandhomx jiġu ddisturbati sabiex jippermettu r-riġenerazzjoni tagħhom.

6. It-tneħhija ta' ħama għandha tkun limitata għal żoni li jmissu mal-parti interna tad-digi eżistenti u għal żoni bil-ħama akkumulata. Dawn ix-xogħlijiet m'għandhomx jestendu għal żoni naturali.

7. Waqt it-tneħhija ta' fdalijiet u waqt li jsir xogħol ta' tħammil, is-saff ta' ħama li jinsab fil-wiċċ tal-wied għandu jiġi kkonservat fil-post.

appropriate riparian and valley species, including trees, shrubs and other plants typical of such habitat types.

5. The site manager shall remove invasive alien species from the area indicated in Figure 1. Following the initial removal, the site manager shall inspect the area every six months for any additional interventions that may be necessary and remove any new sprouting or re-appearance of such species.

C. Maintenance Works

The provisions under this section shall be limited to the regular maintenance practices undertaken to preserve the water capacity, conservation value and geomorphic stability of the site.

1. Within one year of the issue of this Notice, the site manager shall prepare and submit to ERA a three-year maintenance plan covering the provisions of this Section.

2. Maintenance works should be carried out during the dry months and should only commence once the bed and substrate are completely dry; provided that the Authority may allow the undertaking of such works during other seasons and conditions due to reasons of overriding public interest or in favour of the environment.

3. All maintenance works undertaken within Wied il-Fiddien and Wied il-Qlejgħa are to be carried out in line with best practices and authorisations from relevant entities.

4. The excavation, breaking and cutting of underlying bedrock is strictly prohibited, unless authorised by the Authority. Furthermore, when undertaking excavation works, due precaution should be taken to avoid accidental damage to the bedrock. Cleaning and dredging activities are to be limited to the removal of accumulated silt, soil and debris from the watercourse.

5. Whilst undertaking cleaning works, sensitive areas or verges known to host characteristic flora species should be left undisturbed to enable the regeneration of such.

6. The removal of silt shall be limited to the area abutting the internal (upstream) part of the existing dams and limited to the silted part. Such works shall not extend to natural areas.

7. When removing debris and undertaking dredging works, the uppermost layer of the silted watercourse is to be conserved in situ.

D. Regoli għall-Attivitajiet

1. Off-roading, li jinkludi scrambling bil-muturi, huwa strettament projbit. L-aċċess bil-vetturi motorizzati, roti jew l-irkib taż-żwiemel għandu jkun limitat għat-toroq eżistenti u mogħdijiet formalizzati.

2. Il-qtil, distruzzjoni, kaċċa, qbid, nsib, teħid u qluġħ ta' flora u fauna indiġena huwa projbit, hlief għal raġunijiet ta' tmexxija tas-sit, konservazzjoni, konċern ambjentali jew tas-sigurtà. Dawn l-attivitajiet ta' tmexxija għandhom isiru biss b'awtorizzazzjoni minn qabel maħruġa mill-Awtorità, u minn kull entità oħra kif relevanti.

3. Mingħajr preġudizzju għar-Regolamenti dwar il-Harsien tas-Siġar u l-Imsaġar (L.S. 549.123), iż-żbir ta' siġar huwa projbit, hlief meta jinkisbu l-permessi meħtieġa kif stipulat fil-paragrafu 8 ta' din is-Sezzjoni.

4. Ir-rilaxx jew l-istabbilment intenzjonali jew stabbilment potenzjali ta' speċi mhux indiġeni huwa projbit f'Wied il-Fiddien u Wied il-Qlejgħa.

5. L-ebda persuna m'għandha tarmi skart, żibel, terrapien jew forom oħra ta' skart f'Wied il-Fiddien u Wied il-Qlejgħa.

6. L-ebda persuna m'għandha tarmi jew titfa' bijoċida, defoljant jew fertilizzant fiż-żoni naturali f'Wied il-Fiddien u Wied il-Qlejgħa.

7. Attivitajiet kummerċjali u barbecues m'humiex permessi f'Wied il-Fiddien u Wied il-Qlejgħa.

8. Applikazzjonijiet għal permessi għal attivitajiet jew operazzjonijiet regolati minn dan l-Avviz ta' Protezzjoni għandhom jaslu għand l-Awtorità mill-inqas 30 jum qabel id-data tal-attività jew operazzjoni proposta.

Jekk is-sit sugġett ta' dan l-Avviz ta' Protezzjoni jkun b'xi mod danneġġat jew mibdul bi ksur ta' dan l-Avviz, jew l-istat bħala SAC ta' Importanza Nazzjonali jiġi b'xi mod mhoded, jew jekk persuna tagħmel attivitajiet jew azzjonijiet bi ksur ta' dan l-Avviz ta' Protezzjoni jew taħt l-Att jew ir-Regolamenti, l-Awtorità għandha teżercita l-poteri tal-infurzar skont il-Parti VII tal-Att dwar il-Protezzjoni tal-Ambjent.

Il-kundizzjonijiet u d-dispożizzjonijiet f'din in-Notifikazzjoni tal-Gvern jieħdu post il-kundizzjonijiet u d-dispożizzjonijiet speċifikati fil-paragrafi A sa D tan-Notifikazzjoni tal-Gvern Nru. 1235 ippublikata fis-7 ta' Diċembru, 2012.

It-8 ta' Jannar, 2021

D. Regulation of Activities

1. Off-roading, including off-road motorcycle scrambling, is strictly prohibited. Access by motorised vehicles, bicycles or horse-riding shall be limited to existing roads and hard surfaces.

2. The killing, destruction, hunting, capture, trapping, picking and uprooting of native flora and fauna is prohibited, except for the purposes of site management, conservation, environment or safety concerns and then only against a prior authorisation issued by the Authority, and any other entity as relevant.

3. Without prejudice to the Trees and Woodlands Protection Regulations (S.L. 549.123), the pruning of trees is prohibited, unless necessary permits as stated in paragraph 8 of this Section are obtained.

4. The release or in any way the intentional establishment or potential establishment of non-indigenous species is prohibited within Wied il-Fiddien and Wied il-Qlejgħa.

5. No person shall dump or throw any waste, rubbish, rubble or any other form of litter within Wied il-Fiddien and Wied il-Qlejgħa.

6. No person shall dump, throw or use biocides, defoliants or fertilisers within natural areas within Wied il-Fiddien and Wied il-Qlejgħa.




7. Commercial activities and barbecues are not permitted to take place anywhere within Wied il-Fiddien and Wied il-Qlejgħa.

8. Permit applications for any activities or operations regulated by this Protection Notice are to be received by the Authority at least 30 days prior to the date of the proposed activity or operation in question.

If the site subject to this Protection Notice is in any way damaged or altered in contravention of this Notice, or its status as a SAC of National Importance, or is in any way jeopardised, or if any person undertakes activities or actions in breach of the provisions of this Protection Notice or under the Act or the Regulations, the Authority shall exercise its powers of enforcement as per Part VII of the Environment Protection Act.

The conditions and provisions in this Government Notice supersede the conditions and provisions stipulated in paragraphs A to D of Government Notice No. 1235 published on the 7th December, 2012.

8th January, 2021

 <p>Environment & Resources Authority Hazardon House, Spencer Hill, Marsa, MRS 1441, Malta T +356 2252 3500 W1 era.org.mt</p>	<p>Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2016</p> <p>Special Area of Conservation - Site of National Importance</p>	<p> Wied il-Fiddien and Wied il-Qlejgha</p>	<p>Limits of Rabat, Malta</p>	 <p>▲</p>	<p>Bounding Co-ordinates of Map (UTM / Metres): Min E 443,952; N 3,974,060 Max E 446,928; N 3,971,306</p>	<p><small>Copyright: Environment & Resources Authority Data Maps: Mapping Unit, Planning Authority</small></p>
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