

IS-SIMAR (LIMITI TA' SAN PAWL IL-BAĦAR)

MT0000006 (SAC/SPA)

Designation Area: 2.62 ha

ANNEX I HABITATS

- Coastal lagoons (**Habitat 1150***)
- *Salicornia* and other annuals colonising mud and sand (**Habitat 1310**)
- Mediterranean temporary ponds (**Habitat 3170***)
- Thermo-Mediterranean and pre-desert scrub (**Habitat 5330**)
- West Mediterranean clifftop phrygas (*Astragalo-Plantaginetum subulatae*) (**Habitat 5410**)
- Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the *Thero-Brachypodietea* (**Habitat 6220***)
- Southern riparian galleries and thickets (*Nerio-Tamaricetea* and *Securinegion tinctoriae*) (Habitat 92D0)
- *Olea* and *Ceratonia* forests (**Habitat 9320**)

ANNEX II SPECIES

- *Anacamptis urvilleana*
- *Aphanius fasciatus*
- *Elatine gussonei*
- *Ophrys melitensis*
- *Petalophyllum ralfsii*
- *Rhinolophus hipposideros*
- *Zamenis situla*

BIRDS

A number of regularly breeding birds are recorded at 'Is-Simar (limiti ta' San Pawl il-Baħar)'.

Figure 4: Habitat map of 'Is-Simar (limiti ta' San Pawl il-Baħar)' - excluding Habitat 6220* & 9320

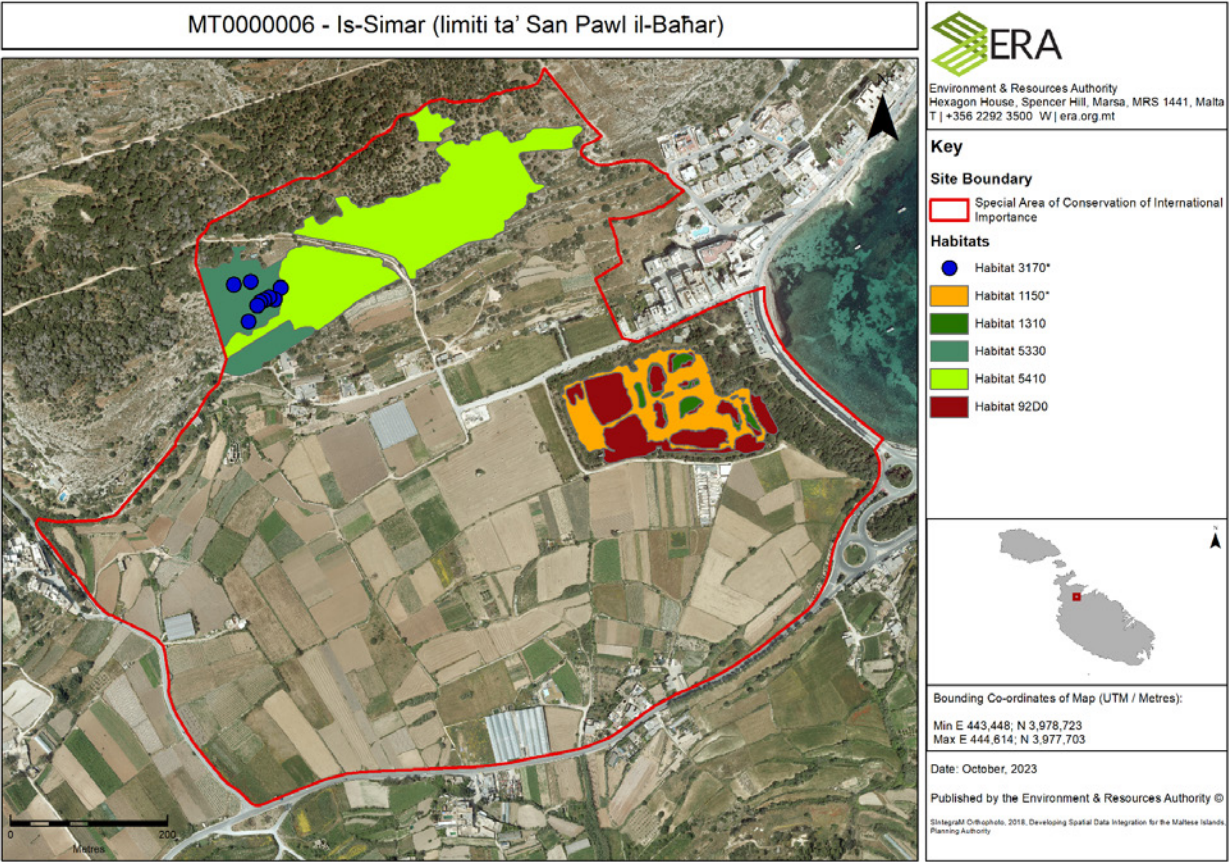


Figure 5: Habitat map of 'Is-Simar (limiti ta' San Pawl il-Baħar)' – excluding Habitat 5330 & 5410

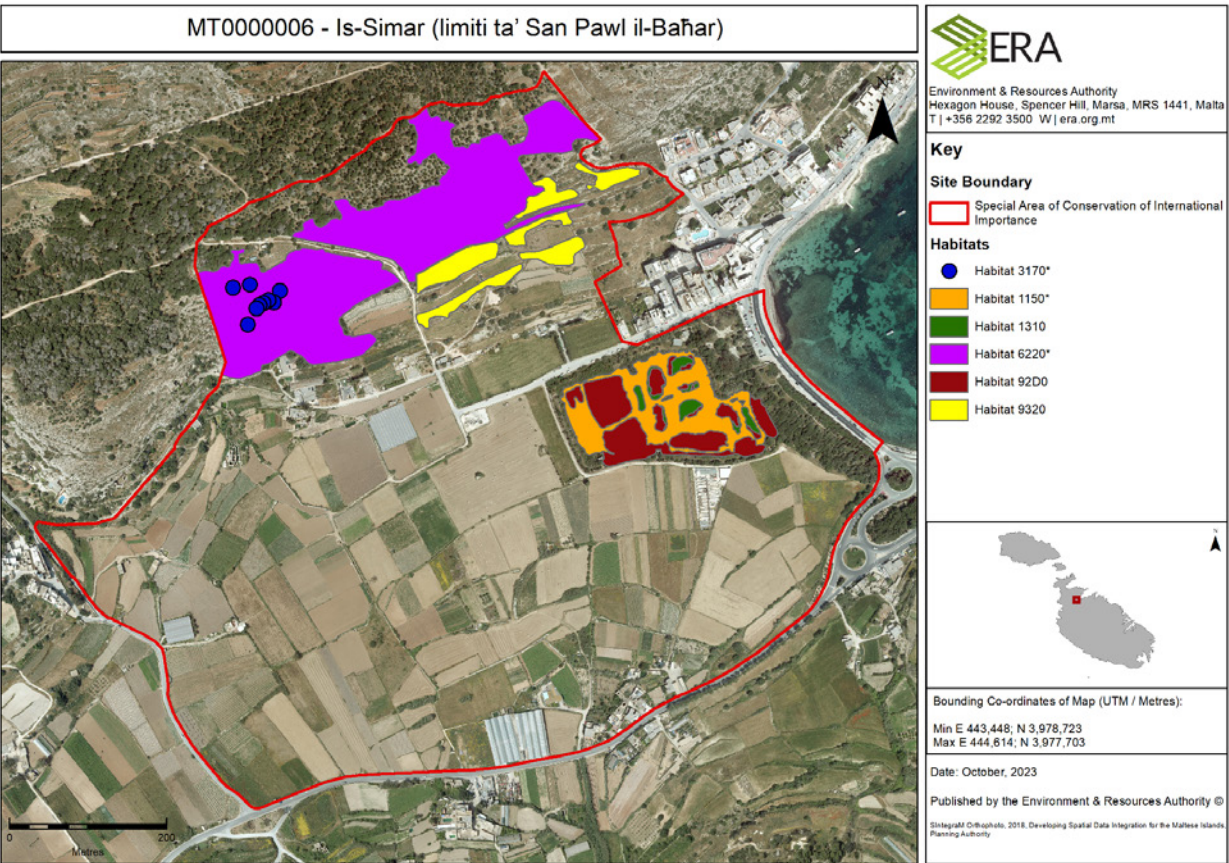
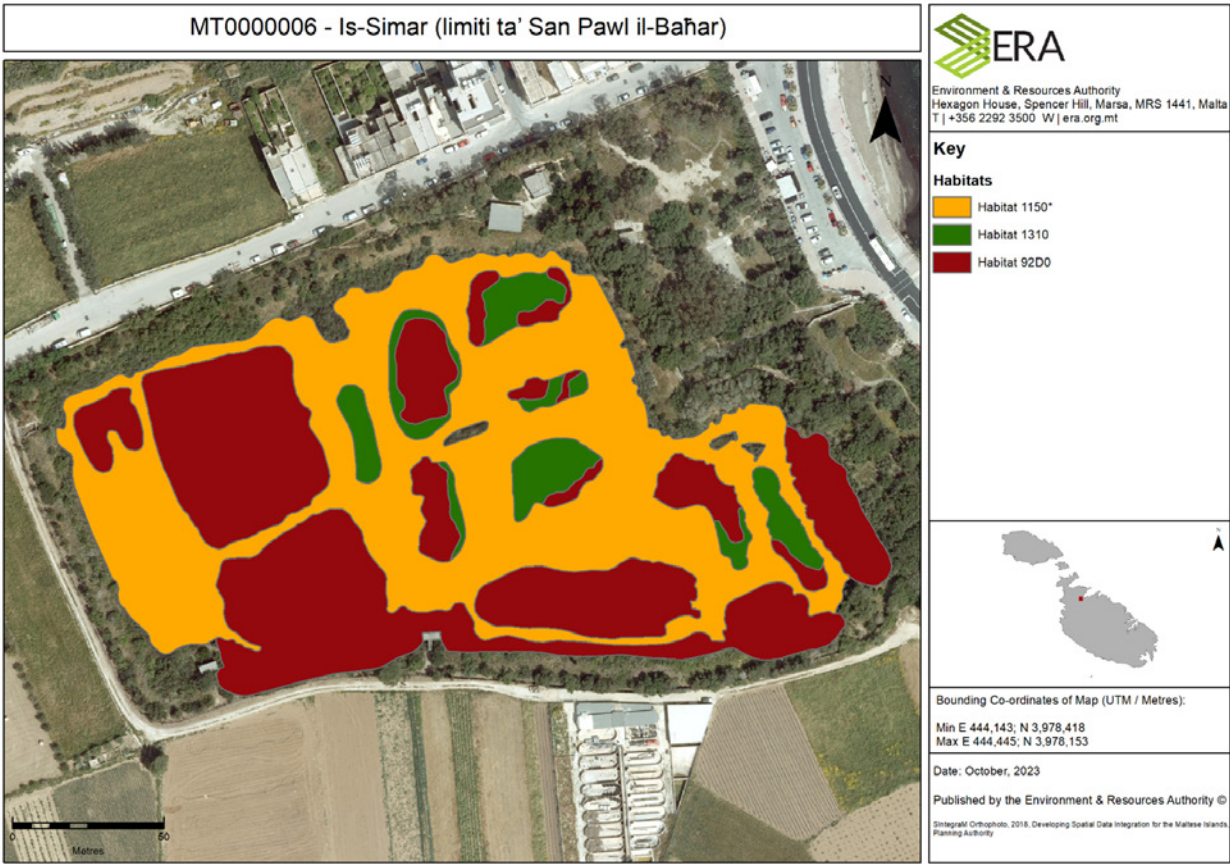


Figure 6: Habitat map of the wetland habitats at 'Is-Simar (limiti ta' San Pawl il-Baħar)



HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Table 5: Habitat types of Annex I of Council Directive 92/43/EEC present on site

Habitat Code	Habitat Name	Cover	Data Quality	Site assessment				Pressures relevant to the Natura 2000 site
				Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global	
1150*	Coastal lagoons	1.2 ha	G	B	A	A	B	
1310	<i>Salicornia</i> and other annuals colonising mud and sand	0.1 ha	G	C	A	C	C	
3170*	Mediterranean temporary ponds	0.0005 ha	G	B	C	C	C	PI01 - Invasive alien species of Union concern
5330	Thermo-Mediterranean and pre-desert scrub	1.1 ha	G	B	C	A	B	PI02 - Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)
5410	West Mediterranean clifftop phryganas (<i>Astragalo-Plantaginietum subulatae</i>)	4 ha	G	B	C	A	B	PM07 - Natural processes without direct or indirect influence from human activities or climate change
6220*	Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the <i>Thero-Brachypodietea</i>	5.9 ha	G	B	C	A	B	
92D0	Southern riparian galleries and thickets (<i>Nerio-Tamaricetea</i> and <i>Securinegion tinctoriae</i>)	1.1 ha	G	C	B	C	C	PL06 - Physical alteration of water bodies
9320	<i>Olea</i> and <i>Ceratonia</i> forests	1 ha	G	B	C	B	B	

SPECIES ASSESSMENT

Table 6: Species listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC present on site

Species Code	Species Name	Population size	Data Quality	Site assessment				Pressures relevant to the Natura 2000 site
				Population	Conservation	Isolation	Global	
1152	<i>Aphanius fasciatus</i>	/	DD	A	B	A	B	PI01 - Invasive alien species of Union concern
1303	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	/	DD	C	C	A	C	PI02 - Other invasive alien species (other than species of Union concern)
1395	<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>	1 grid cell (1x1 km)	G	C	B	A	B	PM07 - Natural processes without direct or indirect influence from human activities or climate change
4092	<i>Elatine gussonei</i>	2.7 m ²	G	B	C	A	C	
4102	<i>Anacamptis urvilleana</i>	1 grid cell (1x1 km)	G	C	B	A	B	PL06 - Physical alteration of water bodies
4105	<i>Ophrys melitensis</i>	/	DD	C	B	A	C	PF12 - Residential, commercial and industrial activities and structures generating noise, light, heat or other forms of pollution
6095	<i>Zamenis situla</i>	/	DD	C	C	A	C	

1150* - COASTAL LAGOONS

The following site-specific conservation objectives and measures shall seek to maintain the conservation status of this habitat type within this site by 2030:

1150* - Coastal lagoons				
SSCO code	Conservation Objective	Attributes	Target	Unit of measurement
MT06_SSCO_01a	Maintain the extent of Habitat 1150* through the corresponding target	Area covered by the habitat type	Area of habitat stable at 1.2 ha	Habitat area (in hectares)
MT06_SSCO_01b	Maintain the structure and function of Habitat 1150* through the corresponding targets	Hydrological regime: Water flow and water level fluctuations	Land-sea interface connectivity maintained	Water flow
MT06_SSCO_01c			Appropriate water levels maintained to mitigate the risk of flooding within the lagoon	Water levels
MT06_SSCO_01d		Species composition: Typical species	The presence of typical species associated with Habitat 1150* within the site is maintained	Species composition

1150* - Coastal lagoons					
Measure code	Conservation Measure	Category (Art. 17)	Performance indicator	Timeframe	Lead/ Supporting Parties
MT06_CM_01a	Maintenance of the control valves at the land-sea interface to regulate water levels in the lagoon	Reduce impact of multi- purpose hydrological changes (MK02)	Operation and maintenance of the control valves	Ongoing	ERA, AM / NGO
MT06_CM_01b	Cleaning and maintenance of interconnected channels at the land- sea interface to maintain the hydrological regime of the lagoon		Number of yearly interventions	Ongoing	ERA, AM / NGO

The lagoon at 'Is-Simar' is currently subject to increasing trends in salinity, also as a result of reduced rainfall. Such increasing trends in salinity may potentially affect the flora and fauna associated with Habitat 1150*. An operational objective is being put forward to assess the hydrology of the site and its wider catchment area, identify and implement mitigation measures, including any potential engineering works and/or regular artificial recharges that would enable improved water flows and stabilisation of salinity levels to reach optimal conditions.

Operational Objective	MT06_OO_01_Assess the hydrology of the site and its wider catchment area, to identify and implement mitigation measures, as deemed necessary
Lead/supporting parties	ERA
Timeframe	Long-term

An assessment shall be carried out to evaluate the possibility to extend the coastal lagoon habitat.

Operational Objective	MT06_OO_02_Assess the possibility of extending the coastal lagoon habitat
Lead/supporting parties	ERA
Timeframe	Long-term

1310 - SALICORNIA AND OTHER ANNUALS COLONISING MUD AND SAND

The following site-specific conservation objectives shall seek to maintain the conservation status of this habitat type within this site by 2030:

1310 - Salicornia and other annuals colonising mud and sand				
SSCO code	Conservation Objective	Attributes	Target	Unit of measurement
MT06_SSCO_02a	Maintain the extent of Habitat 1310 through the corresponding target	Area covered by the habitat type	Area stable at 0.1 ha or increasing through natural regeneration	Habitat area (in hectares)
MT06_SSCO_02b	Maintain the structure and function of Habitat 1310 through the corresponding target	Species composition: Typical species	The presence of typical species associated with Habitat 1310 within the site is maintained	Species composition

3170* - MEDITERRANEAN TEMPORARY PONDS

The following site-specific conservation objectives shall seek to maintain the conservation status of this habitat type within this site by 2030:

3170* - Mediterranean temporary ponds				
SSCO code	Conservation Objective	Attributes	Target	Unit of measurement
MT06_SSCO_03a	Maintain the extent of Habitat 3170* through the corresponding target	Area covered by the habitat type	Area of habitat stable at 0.0005 ha	Habitat area (in hectares)
MT06_SSCO_03b	Maintain the structure and function of Habitat 3170* through the corresponding target	Species composition: Typical species	The presence of typical species associated with Habitat 3170* within the site is maintained	Species composition

5330 - THERMO-MEDITERRANEAN AND PRE-DESERT SCRUB

The following site-specific conservation objectives shall seek to maintain the conservation status of this habitat type within this site by 2030:

5330 - Thermo-Mediterranean and pre-desert scrub				
SSCO code	Conservation Objective	Attributes	Target	Unit of measurement
MT06_SSCO_04a	Maintain the extent of Habitat 5330 through the corresponding target	Area covered by the habitat type	Area stable at 1.1 ha or increasing through natural regeneration	Habitat area (in hectares)
MT06_SSCO_04b	Maintain the structure and function of Habitat 5330 through the corresponding target	Species composition: Typical species	The presence of typical species associated with Habitat 5330 within the site is maintained	Species composition

5410 - WEST MEDITERRANEAN CLIFFTOP PHRYGANAS (*ASTRAGALO-PLANTAGINETUM SUBULATAE*)

The following site-specific conservation objectives and measures shall seek to maintain the conservation status of this habitat type within this site by 2030:

5410 - West Mediterranean clifftop phrygas (Astragalo-Plantaginetum subulatae)				
SSCO code	Conservation Objective	Attributes	Target	Unit of measurement
MT06_SSCO_05a	Maintain the extent of Habitat 5410 through the corresponding target	Area covered by the habitat type	Area stable at 4 ha or increasing through natural regeneration	Habitat area (in hectares)
MT06_SSCO_05b	Improve the structure and function of Habitat 5410 through the corresponding targets	Species composition: Typical species	The presence of typical species associated with Habitat 5410 within the site is maintained	Species composition
MT06_SSCO_05c		Species composition: Invasive alien plant species	Area occupied by invasive alien species is non-significant	Area of habitat occupied by invasive alien species

5410 - West Mediterranean clifftop phrygas (<i>Astragalo-Plantaginetum subulatae</i>)					
Measure code	Conservation Measure	Category (Art. 17)	Performance indicator	Timeframe	Lead/ Supporting Parties
MT06_CM_05a	Removal of invasive alien species, mainly <i>Acacia saligna</i> , from areas supporting Habitat 5410, while preventing their introduction	Management, control or eradication of established invasive alien species of Union concern (MI02)	% area of invasive alien species removed	Short-term	ERA, AM

6220* - PSEUDO-STEPPE WITH GRASSES AND ANNUALS OF THE THERO-BRACHYPODIETEA

The following site-specific conservation objectives and measures shall seek to maintain the conservation status of this habitat type within this site by 2030:

6220* - Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the <i>Thero-Brachypodietea</i>				
SSCO code	Conservation Objective	Attributes	Target	Unit of measurement
MT06_SSCO_06a	Maintain the extent of Habitat 6220* through the corresponding target	Area covered by the habitat type	Area stable at 5.9 ha or increasing through natural regeneration	Habitat area (in hectares)
MT06_SSCO_06b	Improve the structure and function of Habitat 6220* through the corresponding targets	Species composition: Typical species	The presence of typical species associated with Habitat 6220* within the site is maintained	Species composition
MT06_SSCO_06c		Species composition: Invasive alien plant species	Area occupied by invasive alien species is non-significant	Area of habitat occupied by invasive alien species

6220* - Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the <i>Thero-Brachypodietea</i>					
Measure code	Conservation Measure	Category (Art. 17)	Performance indicator	Timeframe	Lead / Supporting Parties
MT06_CM_06a	Removal of invasive alien species, mainly <i>Acacia saligna</i> , from areas supporting Habitat 6220*, while preventing their introduction	Management, control or eradication of established invasive alien species of Union concern(MI02)	% area of invasive alien species removed	Short-term	ERA, AM

92D0 - SOUTHERN RIPARIAN GALLERIES AND THICKETS
(NERIO-TAMARICETEA AND SECURINEGION TINCTORIAE)

The following site-specific conservation objectives and measures shall seek to restore the conservation status of this habitat type within this site by 2030:

92D0 - Southern riparian galleries and thickets (<i>Nerio-Tamaricetea</i> and <i>Securinegion tinctoriae</i>)				
SSCO code	Conservation Objective	Attributes	Target	Unit of measurement
MT06_SSCO_07a	Maintain the extent of Habitat 92D0 through the corresponding target	Area covered by the habitat type	Area stable at 1.1 ha or increasing through natural regeneration	Habitat area (in hectares)
MT06_SSCO_07b	Improve the structure and function of Habitat 92D0 through the corresponding targets	Species composition: Typical species	Habitat representativity improved	Species composition
MT06_SSCO_07c		Species composition: Invasive alien plant species	Area occupied by invasive alien species is non-significant	Area of habitat occupied by invasive alien species

92D0 - Southern riparian galleries and thickets (<i>Nerio-Tamaricetea</i> and <i>Securinegion tinctoriae</i>)					
Measure code	Conservation Measure	Category (Art. 17)	Performance indicator	Timeframe	Lead / Supporting Parties
MT06_CM_07a	Planting of <i>Vitex agnus-castus</i> to improve representativity of Habitat 92D0	Manage native species (incl. non-Directive species) (MS04)	Number of specimens planted, success rate	Short-term	ERA, AM / NGO
MT06_CM_07b	Removal of invasive alien species, mainly <i>Lycium</i> sp., from areas supporting Habitat 92D0, while preventing their introduction	Management, control or eradication of other invasive alien species (MI03)	% area of invasive alien species removed	Short-term	ERA, AM / NGO

9320 - OLEA AND CERATONIA FORESTS

The following site-specific conservation objectives and measures shall seek to restore the conservation status of this habitat type within this site by 2030:

9320 - <i>Olea</i> and <i>Ceratonia</i> forests				
SSCO code	Conservation Objective	Attributes	Target	Unit of measurement
MT06_SSCO_08a	Maintain the extent of Habitat 9320 through the corresponding target	Area covered by the habitat type	Area stable at 1 ha or increasing through natural regeneration	Habitat area (in hectares)
MT06_SSCO_08b	Improve the structure and function of Habitat 9320 through the corresponding targets	Species composition: Typical species	The presence of typical species associated with Habitat 9320 within the site is maintained	Species composition
MT06_SSCO_08c		Species composition: Invasive alien plant species	20% reduction in area occupied by invasive alien species	Area of habitat occupied by invasive alien species

9320 - <i>Olea</i> and <i>Ceratonia</i> forests					
Measure code	Conservation Measure	Category (Art. 17)	Performance indicator	Timeframe	Lead / Supporting Parties
MT06_CM_08a	Removal of invasive alien species, mainly <i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i> and <i>Pennisetum setaceum</i> , from areas supporting Habitat 9320, while preventing their introduction	Management, control or eradication of other invasive alien species (MI03) Management, control or eradication of established invasive alien species of Union concern (MI02)	% area of invasive alien species removed	Long-term	ERA, AM

APHANIUS FASCIATUS

The following site-specific conservation objectives and measures shall seek to maintain the conservation status of this species within this site by 2030:

Aphanius fasciatus					
SSCO code	Conservation Objective	Attributes	Target	Unit of measurement	
MT06_SSCO_09a	Maintain the extent of Habitat 1150* supporting <i>Aphanius fasciatus</i> through the corresponding target	Extent of habitat for the species	Area of Habitat 1150* is stable at 1.2 ha	Area covered by the species' habitat (in hectares)	
MT06_SSCO_09b	Maintain the condition of Habitat 1150* supporting <i>Aphanius fasciatus</i> through the corresponding target	Habitat condition	The condition of Habitat 1150* is suitable to maintain the distribution and population size of the species	Habitat condition	
Aphanius fasciatus					
Measure code	Conservation Measure	Category (Art. 17)	Performance indicator	Timeframe	Lead / Supporting Parties
MT06_CM_09a	Ex-situ conservation of <i>Aphanius fasciatus</i> present at Simar, to preserve its distinct genetic stock	Reinforce populations of species from the directives (MS01)	Number of individuals present in ex-situ	Ongoing	ERA, AM / NGO
MT06_CM_09b	Implementation of the conservation measures listed under Habitat 1150* to maintain the condition of the habitat supporting <i>Aphanius fasciatus</i>	Restoration of habitat of species from the directives (MS03)	Implementation of measures listed for Habitat 1150*	Ongoing	ERA, AM / NGO

The current data available on the population size of *Aphanius fasciatus* within this site is limited. Thus, an operational objective to address this current knowledge gap is being put forward. This would then enable the elaboration of further SSCO's for the species.

Operational Objective	MT06_OO_03_ Undertake a study to improve knowledge on the distribution and population size of <i>Aphanius fasciatus</i> within the site
Lead/supporting parties	ERA
Timeframe	Short-term

ANACAMPTIS URVILLEANA AND OPHRYS MELITENSIS

The following site-specific conservation objectives and measures shall seek to maintain the conservation status of these species within this site by 2030:

<i>Anacamptis urvilleana</i> and <i>Ophrys melitensis</i>				
SSCO code	Conservation Objective	Attributes	Target	Unit of measurement
MT06_SSCO_10a	Maintain the distribution of <i>Anacamptis urvilleana</i> through the corresponding target	Distribution	No decline in species distribution	Occurrence
MT06_SSCO_10b	Maintain the total extent of the Habitats 5330 and 5410 supporting <i>Anacamptis urvilleana</i> and <i>Ophrys melitensis</i> through the corresponding target	Extent of habitat for the species	The total area of Habitats 5330 and 5410 is stable at 5.1 ha or increasing through natural regeneration	Area covered by the species' habitats (in hectares)
MT06_SSCO_10c	Improve the condition of the Habitats 5330 and 5410 supporting <i>Anacamptis urvilleana</i> and <i>Ophrys melitensis</i> through the corresponding target	Habitats' condition	The condition of Habitats 5330 and 5410 is suitable to maintain the distribution and population size of the species	Habitats' condition

<i>Anacamptis urvilleana</i> and <i>Ophrys melitensis</i>					
Measure code	Conservation Measure	Category (Art. 17)	Performance indicator	Timeframe	Lead/ Supporting Parties
MT06_CM_10a	Implementation of the conservation measures listed under Habitat 5410 to maintain the condition of the habitat supporting <i>Anacamptis urvilleana</i> and <i>Ophrys melitensis</i>	Restoration of habitat of species from the directives (MS03)	Implementation of measures listed for Habitat 5410	Short-term	ERA, AM

Data on the distribution of *Ophrys melitensis* at site level is limited. Thus, an operational objective to address this current knowledge gap is being put forward. This would then enable the elaboration of further SSCOs for this species.

Operational Objective	MT06_OO_04_Undertake a study to improve knowledge on the distribution of <i>Ophrys melitensis</i> within the site
Lead/supporting parties	ERA
Timeframe	Short-term

ELATINE GUSSONEI

The following site-specific conservation objectives shall seek to maintain the conservation status of this species within this site by 2030:

<i>Elatine gussonei</i>				
SSCO code	Conservation Objective	Attributes	Target	Unit of measurement
MT06_SSCO_11a	Maintain the distribution and population size of <i>Elatine gussonei</i> through the corresponding targets	Distribution	No decline in species distribution	Number of rockpools occupied by the species
MT06_SSCO_11b		Population size	Population size stable at 2.7 m ² or showing positive trends	Area covered by the species (in m ²)
MT06_SSCO_11c	Maintain the extent of Habitat 3170* supporting <i>Elatine gussonei</i> through the corresponding target	Extent of habitat for the species	Area of habitat 3170* stable at 0.0005 ha	Area covered by the species' habitat (in hectares)
MT06_SSCO_11d	Maintain the condition of Habitat 3170* supporting <i>Elatine gussonei</i> through the corresponding target	Habitat condition	The condition of Habitat 3170* is suitable for the species	Habitat condition

PETALOPHYLLUM RALFSII

The following site-specific conservation objectives shall seek to maintain the conservation status of this species within this site by 2030:

<i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i>				
SSCO code	Conservation Objective	Attributes	Target	Unit of measurement
MT06_SSCO_12a	Maintain the distribution of <i>Petalophyllum ralfsii</i> through the corresponding target	Distribution	No decline in species distribution	Occurrence

RHINOLOPHUS HIPPOSIDEROS

Limited data is available on the current population size and distribution (including roosts) of this species within this site. Thus, an operational objective to address this current knowledge gap is being put forward. This would then enable the elaboration of SSCOs for this species.

Operational Objective	MT06_OO_05_Undertake a study to improve knowledge on the population size and distribution (including roosts) of <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> within the site and identify the necessary measures based on the study's recommendations
Lead/supporting parties	ERA
Timeframe	Short-term

ZAMENIS SITULA

Limited data is available on the distribution and population size of *Zamenis situla* within this site. Thus, an operational objective to address this current knowledge gap is being put forward. This would then enable the elaboration of SSCOs for this species.

Operational Objective	MT06_OO_06_Undertake a study to improve knowledge on the distribution and population size of <i>Zamenis situla</i> within the site
Lead/supporting parties	ERA
Timeframe	Short-term

BIRDS

The following site-specific conservation objectives and measures shall seek to maintain the conservation status of these species within this site by 2030:

Birds				
SSCO code	Conservation Objective	Attributes	Target	Unit of measurement
MT06_SSCO_13a	Maintain the total extent of habitats present within the wetland area supporting regularly breeding birds through the corresponding target	Extent of habitats for the species	The total area of habitats present within the wetland area is maintained for regularly breeding bird species	Area covered by the habitats (in hectares)
MT06_SSCO_13b	Improve the condition of habitats present within the wetland area supporting regularly breeding birds through the corresponding target	Habitats' condition	The condition of the habitats present within the wetland area is suitable for migratory bird species	Habitats' condition
MT06_SSCO_13c	Improve future prospects for regularly breeding birds through the corresponding targets	Pressures and threats: Predation	Predation by rodents is reduced	Rodent activity
MT06_SSCO_13d			Predation by feral cats is reduced	Feral cat activity
MT06_SSCO_13e		Pressures and threats: Human disturbance (Works or activities)	Works or activities are carried out in full respect of the conservation requirements of the Natura 2000 site and in line with ERA's assessment/ permit conditions, as relevant	Level of compliance with ERA's assessment/ permit conditions

Birds					
Measure code	Conservation Measure	Category (Art. 17)	Performance indicator	Timeframe	Lead/ Supporting Parties
MT06_CM_13a	Continuation of rat control efforts to ensure that the rodent population is controlled within the wetland area	Management, control or eradication of other invasive alien species (MI03)	% decrease in rodent activity Number of stations in place	Ongoing	ERA, AM / NGO
MT06_CM_13b	Neutering/ relocation of feral cats present within the wetland area		% decrease in feral cat activity	Ongoing	ERA, AM / NGO
MT06_CM_13c	New developments proposed within and in the vicinity of the site are assessed with respect to potential light pollution, and any preventive/ mitigation measures to reduce disturbance to birds are adopted accordingly	Reduce/ eliminate pollution (incl. noise, light, heat, soil pollution) from industrial, commercial, residential and recreational areas and activities (MF07)	Light levels in line with ERA's proposed conditions	Ongoing	ERA
MT06_CM_13d	Works and activities proposed within and in the vicinity of the site are assessed, and any preventive/ mitigation measures to reduce disturbance to birds are adopted accordingly		Works or activities in line with ERA's proposed conditions	Ongoing	ERA

Birds					
Measure code	Conservation Measure	Category (Art. 17)	Performance indicator	Timeframe	Lead/ Supporting Parties
MT06_CM_13e	Establishing new artificial nesting sites and retention of existing ones		Existing artificial nesting sites retained Number of artificial nesting sites set up Number of nesting sites occupied	Short-term/ Ongoing	ERA, AM / NGO
MT06_CM_13f	Implementation of the conservation measures listed for the habitat types present within the wetland area to improve the condition of the habitats supporting regularly breeding birds	Restoration of habitat of species from the directives (MS03)	Implementation of measures listed for the habitat types present within the wetland area	Various	ERA, AM / NGO