

GĦAR DALAM

MT0000011

Designation Area: 0.7 ha

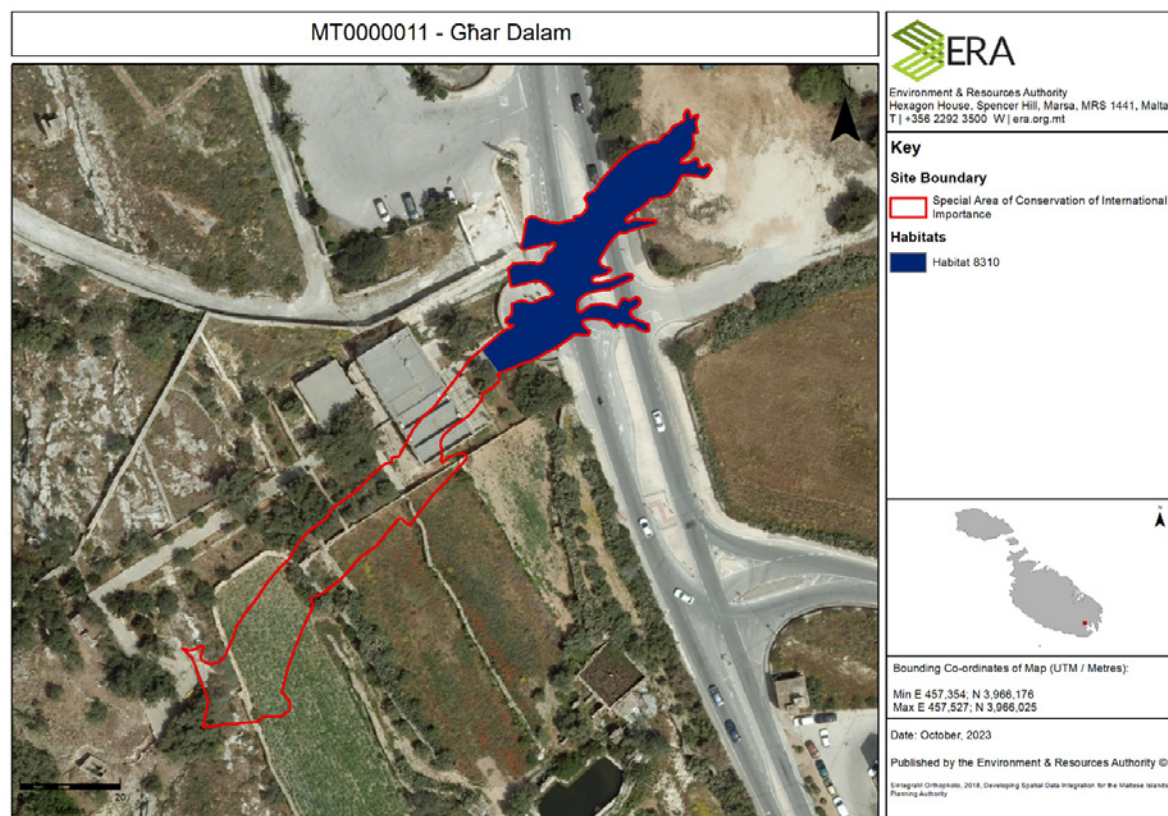
ANNEX I HABITATS

- Caves not open to the public (Habitat 8310)

ANNEX II SPECIES

- *Armadilidium ghardalamensis*
- *Rhinolophus hipposideros*

Figure 12: Habitat map of 'Għar Dalam'



HABITAT ASSESSMENT

Table 12: 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	
8310	Caves not open to the public	0.07 ha	G	A	B	A	A	PF12 - Residential, commercial and industrial activities and structures generating noise, light, heat or other forms of pollution

SPECIES ASSESSMENT

Table 13: 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	
1303	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	1 individual	G	C	A	A	B	PF12 - Residential, commercial and industrial activities and structures generating noise, light, heat or other forms of pollution
4010	<i>Armadillidium ghardalamensis</i>	1 grid cell (1 x 1 km)	G	A	A	A	A	

8310 - CAVES NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC

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

8310 - Caves not open to the public				
SSCO code	Conservation Objective	Attributes	Target	Unit of measurement
MT11_SSCO_01a	Maintain the extent of Habitat 8310 through the corresponding target	Area covered by the habitat type	Area stable at 0.07 ha	Habitat area (in hectares)
MT11_SSCO_01b	Maintain the structure and function of Habitat 8310 through the corresponding targets	Environmental Parameters/ Conditions	Stable and optimal conditions present inside and outside the cave	Data related to environmental parameters
MT11_SSCO_01c		Species composition: Typical species	The presence of typical species associated with Habitat 8310 within the site is maintained	Species composition
MT11_SSCO_01d	Maintain the future prospects of Habitat 8310 through the corresponding targets	Pressures/Threats: Human disturbance (Access)	Access beyond the initial 50 m of the cave system restricted to authorised personnel only	Access (restricted/unrestricted)
MT11_SSCO_01e			Number of visitors at any one time does not exceed 55	Number of visitors
MT11_SSCO_01f		Pressures/Threats: Human disturbance (Works or activities)	Works or activities that may affect the structural integrity of the cave are carried out in line with ERA's assessment/permit conditions, as relevant	Level of compliance with ERA's assessment/permit conditions

8310 - Caves not open to the public					
Measure code	Conservation Measure	Category (Art. 17)	Performance indicator	Timeframe	Lead/ Supporting Parties
MT11_CM_01a	Ensure that the area of the cave system that is open to the public remains restricted to the initial 50 m, except for authorised visits, including for essential scientific research and monitoring of species	Reduce impact of other specific human activities (MH03)	Control of access	Ongoing	ERA, Heritage Malta
MT11_CM_01b	Ensure that the established sustainable visitors' carrying capacity of no more than 55 persons at any one time is not exceeded		Number of visitors entering the cave at any one time	Ongoing	ERA, Heritage Malta
MT11_CM_01c	Works or activities proposed within the vicinity of the cave that may affect the structural integrity of the cave are assessed and any preventive/mitigation measures to reduce impacts are adopted accordingly	Reduce/eliminate pollution (incl. noise, light, heat, soil pollution) from industrial, commercial, residential and recreational areas and activities (MF07)	Works or activities in line with ERA's proposed conditions	Ongoing	ERA

ARMADILLIDIUM GHARDALAMENSIS

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

<i>Armadillidium ghardalamensis</i>				
SSCO code	Conservation Objective	Attributes	Target	Unit of measurement
MT11_SSCO_02a	Maintain the distribution of <i>Armadillidium ghardalamensis</i> through the corresponding target	Distribution	No decline in species distribution within the cave system	Extent of cave occupied by the species (in hectares)
MT11_SSCO_02b	Maintain the extent of Habitat 8310 supporting <i>Armadillidium ghardalamensis</i> through the corresponding target	Extent of habitat for the species	Area supporting the species is stable at 0.07 ha	Area covered by the species' habitat (in hectares)
MT11_SSCO_02c	Maintain the condition of Habitat 8310 supporting <i>Armadillidium ghardalamensis</i> through the corresponding target	Habitat condition	The condition of the habitat is suitable to maintain the distribution and population size of the species	Habitat condition
MT11_SSCO_02d	Maintain future prospects for <i>Armadillidium ghardalamensis</i> through the corresponding target	Pressures and threats: Light pollution	Disturbance to species arising from light pollution is non-significant	Light intensity (Lux)

<i>Armadillidium ghardalamensis</i>					
Measure code	Conservation Measure	Category (Art. 17)	Performance indicator	Timeframe	Lead/ Supporting Parties
MT11_CM_02a	Lights within the cave to be kept at low intensity and limited to visitors' opening hours to prevent disturbance and to allow species to potentially extend its distribution within the cave system	Reduce/ eliminate pollution (incl. noise, light, heat, soil pollution) from industrial, commercial, residential and recreational areas and activities (MF07)	Light intensity (Lux)	Ongoing	ERA, Heritage Malta
MT11_CM_02b	Implementation of the conservation measures listed under Habitat 8310 to maintain the condition of the habitat supporting <i>Armadillidium ghardalamensis</i>	Restoration of habitat of species from the directives (MS03)	Implementation of measures listed for Habitat 8310	Ongoing	ERA, Heritage Malta

Noting that *Armadillidium ghardalamensis* occurs only within this site and has a low population, a study to determine the feasibility of carrying out ex-situ conservation would be essential in an attempt to enhance the current population of the species.

Operational Objective	MT11_OO_01_Undertake a study to determine the feasibility of carrying out ex-situ conservation of <i>Armadillidium ghardalamensis</i> to reinforce the species' population
Lead/supporting parties	ERA
Timeframe	Short-term

RHINOLOPHUS HIPPOSIDEROS

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

<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>				
SSCO code	Conservation Objective	Attributes	Target	Unit of measurement
MT11_SSCO_03a	Maintain the distribution and population size of <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> through the corresponding targets	Distribution	No decline in species distribution within the cave system	Extent of cave occupied by the species (in hectares)
MT11_SSCO_03b		Population size	Population size stable or showing positive trends	Number of individuals
MT11_SSCO_03c	Maintain the extent of Habitat 8310 supporting <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> through the corresponding target	Extent of habitat for the species	Area covered by the habitat supporting the species is stable at 0.07 ha	Area covered by the species' habitat (in hectares)
MT11_SSCO_03d	Maintain the condition of Habitat 8310 supporting <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> through the corresponding target	Habitat condition	The condition of the habitat is suitable to maintain the distribution of the species	Habitat condition
MT11_SSCO_03e	Maintain future prospects for <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> through the corresponding targets	Pressures and threats: Light pollution	Disturbance arising from light pollution is non-significant	Light intensity (Lux)
MT11_SSCO_03f		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

<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>					
Measure code	Conservation Measure	Category (Art. 17)	Performance indicator	Timeframe	Lead/ Supporting Parties
MT11_CM_03a	Lights within the cave to be kept at low intensity and limited to visitors opening hours to prevent disturbance to <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i> and to allow species to potentially extend its distribution within the cave system	Reduce/ eliminate pollution (incl. noise, light, heat, soil pollution) from industrial, commercial, residential and recreational areas and activities (MF07)	Light intensity (Lux)	Ongoing	ERA, Heritage Malta
MT11_CM_03b	New developments proposed within and in the vicinity of the site are assessed in terms of potential light pollution, and any preventive/ mitigation measures to reduce bat disturbance are adopted accordingly		Light levels in line with ERA's proposed conditions	Ongoing	ERA
MT11_CM_03c	Works or activities proposed within the vicinity of the cave are assessed and any preventive/ mitigation measures to reduce bat disturbance are adopted accordingly		Works or activities in line with ERA's proposed conditions	Ongoing	ERA
MT11_CM_02d	Implementation of the conservation measures listed under Habitat 8310 to maintain the condition of the habitat supporting <i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	Restoration of habitat of species from the directives (MS03)	Implementation of measures listed for Habitat 8310	Ongoing	ERA, Heritage Malta