



## 2.4 Sitelength [km]:

## 2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code                      Region Name

MTZZ	Extra-Regio
------	-------------

## 2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Marine                      (100.0  
Mediterranean %)

## 3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

### 3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

[Back to top](#)

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A B C D	A B C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
1170B			3465.47		G	A	A	B	A
8330B				5	G	B	B	B	B

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered
- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation)

### 3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

Species					Population in the site						Site assessment			
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D. qual.	A B C D	A B C		
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
R	1224	<a href="#">Caretta caretta</a>			c	0	180	i	C	G	A	A	C	A
M	1349	<a href="#">Tursiops truncatus</a>			p	0	79	i	P	G	C	B	B	C

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see [reference portal](#))
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

### 3.3 Other important species of flora and fauna (optional)

## 4. SITE DESCRIPTION

[Back to top](#)

#### 4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N01	100.0
<b>Total Habitat Cover</b>	<b>100</b>

#### Other Site Characteristics

The depths recorded in this particular site range from 190 m near the south-eastern corner to deep water areas off the northwestern corner, reaching depths in excess of 990 m. In the north-western corner depths are in the region of 230 m. Following the eastern side of the block towards south there is a plateau area rising from the depths of 990 m to a shallower depth in the region of 240 m and shoaling further still to 190 m along the edge. In contrast to the gradual positive incline of the plateau in the northern part, the plateau has a steep negative incline representing a steep cliff further, south after which it again has a more gradual negative incline to the deeper south-western sector. The western edge of the area is the deepest ranging from 600 m in the south to 990 m in the north. At a location centred on 35.91°N and 14.13°E a number of circular elevated seabed formations are also recorded at a depth of approximately 500 m to 550 m. This information was gathered through the LIFE BaHAR for N2K project (LIFE12NAT/MT/000845).

#### 4.2 Quality and importance

The site hosts the highest population density of *Caretta caretta*. The average density for Malta is between 0.4 to 7.2 specimens per square kilometer. The area likely serves as a migratory corridor and foraging site for this species, with a higher occupancy by juveniles and sub-adults (although more scientific evidence would be required to confirm this). It is likely that the occurrence of sightings of this species is variable depending on oceanographic parameters. A small number of *Tursiops truncatus* is present in waters around this area, but clearly identifiable areas representing the physical and biological factors essential for their life and reproduction have not yet been found. The information on *T. truncatus* and *C. caretta* was gathered through the EU LIFE+ MIGRATE project (LIFE11 NAT/MT/1070). Regarding caves, no detailed information on the assemblages found in deep-water caves is recorded since it is not possible for an ROV to enter into the caves. When present, sessile species at the mouth of the caves are the same as those associated with the adjacent reef escarpment (see below), while some mobile species that are also typical of deep-water reefs, particularly the shrimps *Plesionika* spp., are observed in some of the caves. Reef assemblages present along escarpments in this area are characterised by a variety of sessile cnidarians and sponges. The most abundant habitat-forming species included the scleractinian (stony coral) *Madrepora oculata*, the antipatharian (black coral) *Leiopathes glaberrima* and the alcyonacean *Callogorgia verticillata*. Several other less abundant habitat-forming species are also encountered, including species of conservation interest, such as antipatharians, the stony coral *Lophelia pertusa* and the precious red coral *Corallium rubrum*. Other relevant habitat-forming species include the cnidarians *Acanthogorgia* sp., *Bebryce mollis*, *Callogorgia verticillata*, *Chironophthya mediterranea*, *Dendrobrachia bonsai*, *Dendrophyllia cornigera*, *Muriceides lepida*, and *Placogorgia* spp., the poriferans *Hexadella dedritifera* and cf. *Pachastrella monilifera*, and the barnacle *Pachylasma giganteum*. A high diversity of associated fauna (especially sponges, echinoderms, molluscs, crustaceans and fish) is also present. The information on caves and reefs was gathered through the LIFE BaHAR for N2K project (LIFE12NAT/MT/000845). Note: An extensive area of this site was initially proposed as an SCI in 2016, and confirmed as an SCI in 2017; the site was extended in 2018.

#### 4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
L	H03.03		o
M	F02.01		b
M	F02.03		b
L	M02.01		b
L	M01.01		b
L	F02.02		b
L	D03.02		b
L	M02.03		b
L	M02.02		b

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside /outside [i o b]

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,

T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

#### 4.4 Ownership (optional)

#### 4.5 Documentation

## 5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

[Back to top](#)

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

5.3 Site designation (optional)

## 6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

[Back to top](#)

Organisation:	Environment and Resources Authority
Address:	
Email:	natura2000@era.org.mt

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

<input type="checkbox"/> Yes
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, but in preparation
<input type="checkbox"/> No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

## 7. MAP OF THE SITES

[Back to top](#)

INSPIRE ID:

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format (optional)

Yes  No

Reference(s) to the original map used for the digitalisation of the electronic boundaries (optional).

--