



# 3<sup>rd</sup> River Basin Management Plan: MALTA

## 8. Programme of Measures

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## 8. Programme of Measures

The Programme of Measures (PoM) is established for the third WFD implementation cycle with the aim of continuing Malta's efforts towards maintaining or achieving good status of surface and groundwater bodies. Such a Programme seeks the maintenance or achievement of ecological and chemical status of all inland surface and transitional waters, groundwater and surface coastal waters, by addressing the main pressures and challenges on such waters. From a water management perspective, the PoM continues to invest in water demand management at the local and national level to ensure that water use levels in all water using sectors are maintained at highly efficient levels. Water demand measures will be complemented by infrastructural measures aimed at increasing the national water production capacity of non-conventional water resources to ensure that the efficient

The Programme was elaborated based on the measures put forward through Malta's second WCMP and other sectoral processes, which are being taken forward to address:

- the Significant Water Management Issues identified as the main challenges that need to be addressed in the third implementation cycle for achievement of WFD objectives;
- gaps in the achievement of good ecological and chemical status for surface water bodies, on the basis of the updated assessment of status and pressures;
- the achievement of common objectives for WFD water bodies and protected areas

The key focus of the PoM within the 3<sup>rd</sup> RBMP therefore is on:

(i) supporting water demand management measures in all water using sectors, including the domestic, agricultural and commercial sectors through increased engagement with stakeholders

(ii) enhancing the production capacity of non-conventional water resources to continue to diversify water supply resources for municipal and agricultural water supply, and investing in energy efficiency measures to reduce the environmental footprint of these alternative water resources

(iii) assessing opportunities for supporting and promoting alternative water resources which can be used at source, such as harvested rainwater and greywater; and

(iii) optimising the management of groundwater resources through the introduction of a groundwater abstraction licensing framework for water users.

### 8.1 Progress in implementation of Programme of Measures targeting surface waters in Malta's Second River Basin Management Plan

Since the publication of Malta's second RBMP, the implementation of the Programme of Measures has addressed significant pressures on water resources with links to the status of the water bodies. Reduction of pressures on waters was achieved through improved and targeted regulation of specific activities as well as interactions with relevant entities and stakeholders.

The second plan included five (5) basic measures and twenty-three (23) supplementary measures addressing pressures on surface waters. These measures were classified into five categories as listed hereunder. A description of the implementation progress and/or links with the Programme of Measures of the third RBMP is included under each section.

- i. *Key measures (KEY): pre-requisite measures required to support implementation of other measures put forward as part of Malta's RBMP;*

KEY measures include both basic and supplementary measures targeting sources of pollution in surface waters through the development of a strong regulatory framework for permitting of industrial operational activities and improvements of data flows across relevant sectors. They are ongoing measures which will be taken forward through the third implementation cycle.

- ii. *General Surface Water (SWM) measures, targeting the most significant point and diffuse sources of pollution, as well as other pressures on water resources;*

'General surface water' (SWM) measures broadly seek:

- the development of guidance documents to support permitting systems in contributing to the achievement of WFD objectives;
- the use and interpretation of emissions data to gear processes towards achievement of WFD objectives;
- to align existing processes with WFD objectives; and
- to address pressures arising from specific sectors.

Some of these measures (SWM1<sup>1</sup> and SWM2<sup>2</sup>) are implemented on a continuous basis in parallel to the permitting system governed by the KEY measures and will be taken further through the third RBMP. Other measures (SWM5<sup>3</sup> and SWM8<sup>4</sup>) have been implemented.

The Programme of Measures in the third RBMP will take forward other SWM measures through:

- comprehensive management of wastewater within the framework of the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive (SWM9<sup>5</sup>);

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<sup>1</sup> Continue to strengthen the relationship between environmental and planning regulatory processes

<sup>2</sup> Continue to control priority hazardous substances, priority substances and other substances of concern via the environmental permitting process

<sup>3</sup> Publish guidelines for the disposal of dredged material: *the development and publication of "Terms of Reference for the management and disposal of dredged material" in November 2018. These Terms of Reference outline the methodology to be used to determine the extent of contamination of dredged material and the ways by which the material should be managed and disposed.*

<sup>4</sup> Improve operational standards for the aquaculture sector via the environmental permitting process: *permitting of additional sectors; more specifically, as from 2017, all aquaculture installations in Malta are subject to environmental permitting procedures, with conditions imposed in relation to feeding regimes, mitigation of spills and environmental monitoring.*

<sup>5</sup> Creation and implementation of the Agriculture Waste Management Plan

- a risk assessment towards management of contamination of surface waters (SWM10<sup>6</sup>);
- holistic approach towards management of specific activities such as boating (SWM11<sup>7</sup>)
- holistic restoration processes for inland surface waters (SWM12<sup>8</sup> and SWM14<sup>9</sup>)

Measures SWM6<sup>10</sup> and SWM7<sup>11</sup> are being sought through other management processes, including the management framework for marine Natura 2000 sites<sup>12</sup>, which calls for a compliance strategy in coordination with the relevant competent entities, and the Marine Strategy Framework Directive's Programme of Measures in relation to marine litter.

iii. *Knowledge measures (KNO): targeting enhancement of the knowledge base;*

The majority of the measures in this category have either been implemented (KNO1<sup>13</sup> and KNO2<sup>14</sup>) or are ongoing through EU Funded project LIFE16 IPE/MT000008<sup>15</sup> (KNO3<sup>16</sup>, KNO4<sup>17</sup> and KNO7<sup>18</sup>).

The other two measures (KNO 5<sup>19</sup> and KNO6<sup>20</sup>) will be taken forward by the third RBMP through a risk assessment towards management of contamination of surface waters.

iv. *Emergency Response Measures (EMER): targeting improvement of the Marine and Terrestrial Contingency Response;*

Three measures put forward by Malta's second Water Catchment Management RBMP within this category (EMER 1<sup>21</sup>, EMER 2<sup>22</sup> and EMER 3<sup>23</sup>) target the improvement of the Marine and Terrestrial Contingency Response. The implementation of these measures is ongoing, also being handled as part of wider processes related to the National Marine Pollution and Contingency Plan. Within this context,

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<sup>6</sup> Establish a Mercury Management Plan to enable the investigation of potential sources of mercury and potential mitigation measures

<sup>7</sup> Streamline designated Bathing waters as defined by the Environmental Health Directorate with designated Swimming Zones as regulated by Transport Malta where these two areas overlap or are in close proximity of each other

<sup>8</sup> Extend the basic measure related to the removal of alien species from the Qattara habitat, as identified in the Natura 2000 Management Plan, to the Ghadira ta' Sarraflu

<sup>9</sup> Develop a strategic policy framework to encourage integrated valley management

<sup>10</sup> Explore the possibility to Carry out joint inspections with Transport Malta, the Civil Protection Directorate, the Occupational Health and Safety Authority and the Water Services Corporation to ensure that industrial operations abide to best environmental practices

<sup>11</sup> Develop a system to encourage adequate litter management and control in coastal areas

<sup>12</sup> [https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MPAs-Conservation-Objectives-and-Measures\\_final\\_Feb2023.pdf](https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/MPAs-Conservation-Objectives-and-Measures_final_Feb2023.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> Study the impacts of the national spoil ground off Xghajra

<sup>14</sup> Carry out a technical feasibility assessment regarding the management of ballast waters

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.rbmplife.org.mt/>

<sup>16</sup> Characterise and quantify hydrological input of land based contaminants (including litter) to coastal waters from major sub catchments

<sup>17</sup> Investigate the role of transboundary contaminants through hydrographic pathways and the extent of its contribution to marine contamination

<sup>18</sup> Carry out seasonal surveys of mooring or anchorage sites

<sup>19</sup> Carry out investigations to gauge potential contribution of contaminants to our coastal waters by atmospheric deposition

<sup>20</sup> Carry out a survey of all direct discharges to sea and identify their source with the objective of setting up a plan to curtail/regulate such discharges

<sup>21</sup> Creation of a working group tasked with the updating of sensitivity maps to enable better marine emergency response

<sup>22</sup> Create an ERA pollution response log for environmental incidents occurring at land and at sea

<sup>23</sup> Put into place the terrestrial emergency response strategy

the updating of sensitivity maps is being undertaken in conjunction with the development of a national policy on the use of oil dispersants.

v. *Awareness measures (AWA): targeting communication and awareness raising.*

Malta's second WCMP put forward two measures targeting communication and awareness-raising in relation to marine litter and domestic, agricultural and industrial chemical waste and waste packaging (AWA 1<sup>24</sup> and AWA 2<sup>25</sup>).

While these two measures have been implemented through campaigns on marine litter by the Ministry for the Environment, Energy and Enterprise and other sectors<sup>26</sup>, the third RBMP will be taking these measures forward in conjunction with the current regulatory frameworks put in place as part of the Single-Use Plastic Directive.

## 8.2 Progress in implementation of Programme of Measures targeting groundwater in Malta's Second River Basin Management Plan

The measures present in Malta's 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMRP which specifically target the improved of the quantitative and qualitative status of our groundwater were classified according to the significant water management issues which have been identified and they are addressing. A description of the implementation progress of the measures by the relevant significant water management issues for groundwater is provided below.

### (i) Governance and Capacity Building

Soon after the adoption of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMP, the assessment focusing on the determination of the roles and responsibilities of all public sector agencies involved in the wider management of the water sector was completed. As part of the Government's initiative to better define the policy, regulatory and operational roles, throughout the implementation cycle of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMP, new entities have been setup in the environment and transport sector focusing on the protection of Malta's natural capital and the maintenance and upkeep of Malta's transport infrastructure.

Through the LIFE 16 IPE MT 008 Project regular meetings of the National Water Table are being held with stakeholders from both the public and private sector, in order to increase stakeholder involvement in the development of the approaches and measures required for the achievement of the Water Framework Directive's environmental objectives. The National Water Table meets on a six-monthly basis to assess the progress achieved in the implementation of the project itself and also the implementation of the RBMP. The National

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24 Targeted awareness campaign on impacts of marine litter

25 Targeted awareness campaign and the training of relevant professionals on the appropriate disposal of chemicals and/or chemical containers, including medicines, pesticides and fertilisers and related packaging

26 The Malta Competition and Consumer Affairs Authority provides ongoing training both to farmers and distributors. This training includes the safe disposal of Plant Protection Products and their containers. Farmers and distributors are referred to civic amenity sites managed by Wasteserv where information is given with respect to the need for the product to be treated as hazardous waste. Such training is ongoing and is renewed every five years; WasteServ Malta Ltd. also launched a service whereby pharmaceutical waste is collected from pharmacies. Interested pharmacies across Malta and Gozo were supplied with secure medicinal bins, aimed to be a convenient disposal for expired/unwanted medicine and medicinal waste.

Water Table is also an important forum for the discussion on the future implementation of the 3<sup>rd</sup> RBMP and the measures within. Furthermore, a dedicated national water conservation awareness campaign (part of the EU funded project CF.PA10.0096) was launched in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2019, which campaign facilitated the public's access to information and provided a central reference point for water related information.

## **(ii) Water Demand Management**

Water Demand Management is an important cross-cutting measure within Malta's water management strategy. The 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMP hence proposed a series of measures targeting different water using sectors with the aim of providing the tools necessary for these sectors to optimise (increase the efficiency) of their water use. The public (municipal), domestic, and agricultural sectors were specifically considered under the 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMP Programme of Measures.

The 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMP included a series of tangible and supporting measures for ensuring the optimised use of water resources by the public sector (municipal), most importantly targeting the effective management of leakages in the municipal water distribution network. This is an ongoing measure undertaken by the public utility which is resulting in the progressive reduction of leakage rates to an Infrastructural Leakage Index (ILI).

Measures addressing the domestic sector are an ongoing measure in particular through the free energy and water consumption audit service is being provided (nationally funded) to support households in better understanding their water, and also energy, consumption and hence identify how these can be reduced. This exercise was also complemented by the National Water Conservation Campaign.

The rural development programme incentivised schemes for farmers to optimise the efficiency of their irrigation systems, which supports the adoption of high-end irrigation technology such as drip irrigation. In this regard it is noted that a high percentage of irrigated land in Malta is fitted with such technology. Throughout the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of implementation significant investments were also carried out by the farming community in the development of new reservoirs to harvest rainwater runoff.

## **(iii) Water Supply Augmentation**

Malta's water management strategy as presented in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMP focused on the conjunctive use of water demand management and water supply augmentation measures to meet the national water demand whilst ensuring the sustainable use of natural water resources. Hence the protection and development of the national resource base featured strongly in the Programme of Measures, with specific measures addressing each of the four main water resource typologies present in the Maltese islands.

Measured related to groundwater modelling, online groundwater monitoring, installation of variable speed pumps for groundwater abstraction sources, the rehabilitation of rainwater harvesting infrastructures, the inauguration of a new desalination plant in Gozo, the further

optimisation of the existing desalination plants and the additional expansion of the New Water network facilitated the achievement of the objective of water supply augmentation.

#### **(iv) Stakeholder Engagement**

During the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of implementation, the stakeholder engagement actions were primarily centred on the National Water Conservation Campaign which was officially launched in September 2019. The campaign utilised various types of communication media to highlight the importance of several facets of water management including the importance of water use efficiency in all sectors, the importance of water reclamation and the protection of the quality of water resources.

This campaign was complemented by an educational campaign centered on Malta's National Water Conservation Awareness Centre (GHAJN). This Centre provides an educational programme for students, who spend a day at the Centre undertaking various water centred educational activities. Through LIFE funds the educational product of the Centre has been upgraded to increase its interactive content and hence ensure a higher level of engagement with the visiting students. In 2019 the GHAJN Centre was awarded the EU Sustainability Award by the European Commission for its educational activities on the sustainable use of water resources.

#### **(v) Monitoring and Data Management**

Measured related to the upgrading of monitoring infrastructure continued throughout the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of the implementation of the RBMP. A project for the upgrading of the national groundwater monitoring framework was initiated to address the existing challenges for monitoring perched aquifer systems and introduce innovative monitoring solutions, such as the monitoring of the unsaturated zone monitoring network, to enable the assessment of the qualitative characteristics of recharge to groundwater, and the establishment of a level monitoring network for the freshwater and saltwater interface. Monitoring of the freshwater and saltwater interface is an important aspect for ensuring the sustainable management of Malta's most important groundwater bodies.

#### **(vi) Research and Development**

During the implementation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMP, specific research initiatives were launched by the WFD Competent Authorities, in collaboration with academic institutions, to address specific information gaps identified in the 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMP. Important aspects of such research initiatives focused on the management and quality of groundwater resources, the utilisation of satellite technology for water demand assessments, the establishment of national water irrigation demand coefficients for the arable agricultural sector, the identification of the sources of Arsenic content in groundwater, the characterisation of sea-water intrusion mechanisms using isotopic markers and the assessment of the content of specific contaminants of emerging concern.

**(vii) Qualitative Aspects**

The protection of groundwater resources was addressed through the implementation of basic measures such as those under the Nitrates and the Plant Protection Products Directives. The measures under the 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMP which are related address the reduction of leakages from the wastewater collection network. The comprehensive and ongoing upgrade programme of the sewer network was continued by the public utility throughout the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle.

Complimenting this activity was also the project which was initiated by the public water utility to optimise the enforcement capacity of the utility's sewer discharge permitting unit with a view of enabling a better control on the discharge of contaminants to the public sewer. This action was initiated during the 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMP and will continue in the coming years to protect the quality of wastewater in view of the importance of water reclamation (particularly through New Water), in the coming years.

**(viii) Flood Management**

The initial objective of the measures addressing this significant water management issue was to reassess the resultant risk following the completion of the National Flood Relief project. This assessment was finalised and also extended to additional catchments in the Maltese islands which have not been considered as part of the National Flood Relief project. This assessment provided the basis for the identification of those areas which are still prone to flood risk the development of flood hazard and risk maps.

Work on the development of this strategic framework for the use of SUDS and NBS commenced during the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of implementation which will now be complemented by the completion of the sites demonstrating the application of SUDS and NBS in Malta. The experienced gained from the implementation of these sites will also allow the development of technical guidelines for storm water management and use of SUDS and NBS specifically adapted to the conditions in Malta.

**(ix) Water-Energy Nexus**

Energy consumption in desalination plants operated by the national public utility has been significantly lowered through comprehensive plant upgrade programmes. The water utility established specific power benchmarks for the desalination plants which saw the energy consumption of existing plants reduced over the baselines set at the start of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMP implementation period.

Energy consumption in water distribution was also addressed through the identification and replacement of distribution pipes entailing high frictional losses. Furthermore, the configuration of the distribution network was further optimised to eliminate unnecessary head and frictional losses in the distribution network thereby enabling a further reduction in the energy requirements for water distribution.



**(x) Economic Aspects**

The implementation of the leakage identification and control programme was continued by the water utility throughout the implementation period of the 2<sup>nd</sup> RBMP. Such an activity further complemented the measures undertaken by the utility to also reduce apparent losses through meter replacement programmes, theft identification and improved billing technologies. The results of this programme are evident in an increasing level of “billed consumption” which is progressively improving the cost recovery levels for the provision of water services throughout the 2<sup>nd</sup> cycle of implementation.

### 8.3 Updated Programme of Measures

Malta’s 3<sup>rd</sup> RBMP is putting forward a variety of measures targeting the achievement of the environmental objectives of surface water bodies and the good quantitative and qualitative status of groundwater. A description of the respective measure together with the expected of each measure are provided in Table 1. The improvement in status of Malta’s natural water is being tackled by addressing the drivers of the significant pressures on our water resources and therefore the measures being proposed will work towards addressing the gaps towards good status of these water bodies.

Most of these measures reflect or build upon ongoing initiatives currently being implemented or already planned for implementation by a number of Government entities. The measures included as part of this management plan shall also strengthen the integrated and cross-sectoral approach which is necessary towards effective management of Malta’s water resources.

Table 11: List of measures addressing inland, transitional, surface and coastal waters, to be implemented as part of the third River Basin Management cycle.

PROPOSED MEASURE		DIRECTIVE'S REQUIREMENTS	KEY TYPE MEASURE	IMPACT OF MEASURE
TITLE	DESCRIPTION			
Upgrading of Urban Waste Water Treatment Plants	<p>Malta's Urban Waste Water Treatment Plants (Ċumnija, Ras il-Hobż and Ta' Barkat) discharge treated effluent into coastal surface waters. This measure involves the upgrading of the Urban Waste Water Treatment Plants to cater for projected wastewater production and peak flows with a view to ensure compliance of the discharges with the Urban Wastewater Treatment Directive. This will in turn reduce risks associated with nutrient and organic enrichment of coastal waters.</p> <p>Feasibility studies will provide a detailed analysis of available options to implement the projected treatment capacity upgrades, with upgrades planned to be in place by 2026.</p>	Article 11(3)(a) requires measures to implement Community legislation for the protection of water, including measures required under the legislation specified in Article 10 and in part A of Annex VI: The Urban Waste-water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC).	KTM1	<p>These measures are implemented by Malta's Water Services Corporation.</p> <p>Noting that Malta's Urban Waste Water Treatment plants discharge into marine waters, they will continue to contribute to the 'high' and 'good' status of coastal water bodies by targeting potential pressures from nutrient/organic matter enrichment. The upgrading of sewerage networks in coastal areas will also reduce the potential for sewage leakages into coastal waters.</p> <p>While no gaps towards achievement of WFD objectives are being addressed as a result of the overall good status of coastal water bodies into which the treatment plant discharge, these measures will ensure maintenance of such status.</p> <p>In addition, the measures will contribute to the achievement of protected areas' objectives including Marine Protected Areas designated under the EU Habitats Directive, bathing waters designated under the Bathing Water Quality Directive and the Nitrates Vulnerable Zone as per Nitrates Directive. The measures will continue the implementation of basic measures under the second WCMP.</p>
Upgrading of sewerage network	The measure involves the renewal and upgrading of Malta's sewerage network, including the upgrading of pumping stations and rising mains. This process will concurrently address pressures on surface waters and groundwaters associated with the conveyance of sewage through the current network.	Article 11(3)(a) requires measures to implement Community legislation for the protection of water, including measures required under the legislation specified in Article 10 and in part A of Annex VI: The Urban Waste-water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC).		

PROPOSED MEASURE		DIRECTIVE'S REQUIREMENTS	KEY TYPE MEASURE	IMPACT OF MEASURE
TITLE	DESCRIPTION			
Sewer Discharge Permitting and Monitoring	<p>This measure involves the commissioning of a number of designated sewer discharge points where private carriers registered by the Environment and Resources Authority can discharge wastewater to the sewage network whilst being monitored for wastewater quality and will therefore ensure the protection of the quality of wastewater. In addition to this, a network of thirty-two (32) fixed waste water monitoring stations is implemented in order to assess the quality of waste water in crucial nodes of the sewer network. It is envisaged that such data can also be used in conjunction with an AI to be able to predict the waste water quality and use this prediction model to enhance sewage treatment plant operations.</p> <p>Furthermore, additional investments in the Discharge Permitting Unit (DPU) within the Water Services Corporation, whose role is to enforce the national Sewer Discharge Control Regulations in terms of personnel, equipment and procedures, will be sought.</p>	Article 11(3)(a) requires measures to implement Community legislation for the protection of water, including measures required under the legislation specified in Article 10 and in part A of Annex VI: The Urban Waste-water Treatment Directive (91/271/EEC).	KTM1	<p>This measure is implemented by Malta's Water Services Corporation.</p> <p>Ensuring the quality of wastewater reaching wastewater treatment plants will guarantee the operation of wastewater treatment plants to ensure effluent meeting the quality requirements for marine discharge. Boosting the capacity of the Discharge Permitting Unit will also contribute to the control of the quality of discharges to the sewer network. This will reduce the instances of discharge to the sewer of substances which exceed the established limits, reduction of discharge of toxic/non-biodegradable substances resulting in reduced downtimes of wastewater treatment plants, it also reduces the load of contaminants which are not necessarily removed or completely removed through the wastewater treatment and reclamation process and therefore potentially ending up in the marine environment.</p> <p>While no gaps towards achievement of WFD objectives are being addressed as a result of the overall good status of coastal water bodies into which the urban waste water treatment plants discharge, this measure will ensure maintenance of such status.</p> <p>In addition, the measure will contribute to the achievement of protected areas' objectives including Marine Protected Areas designated under the EU Habitats Directive, bathing waters designated under the Bathing Water Quality Directive and the Nitrates Vulnerable Zone as per Nitrates Directive.</p>
Use of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems and	An integrated approach towards the planning and implementation of Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDS) and Natural Water Retention Measures (NWRM)	Article 11(3)(h) for diffuse sources liable to cause pollution, measures to	KTM23	This measure will contribute towards addressing the gaps in relation to chemical status of inland surface and transitional water bodies, which all failed achieving good

PROPOSED MEASURE		DIRECTIVE'S REQUIREMENTS	KEY TYPE MEASURE	IMPACT OF MEASURE
TITLE	DESCRIPTION			
Natural Water Retention Measures targeting improvement of water quality	<p>will be sought through the development of a Strategic Framework on Stormwater management and based on demonstration projects involving the implementation and assessment of SUDS and NWRM. The activities carried out as part of this measure shall be co-financed through the LIFE16 IPE/MT000008.</p> <p>This measure is aligned with Malta's second Flood Risk Management Plan (FRMP) and will be taking forward the assessment of SUDS and NWRM on a national scale in recognition of pressures, other than flooding, that would be addressed through such systems, including improvements in surface water and groundwater quality as a result of the improved quality of runoff and/or the reduction of storm water runoff which could potentially end up polluting such water bodies.</p> <p>An assessment on the implementation of such systems at a national level will be undertaken through the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Water and the Stakeholder Water Tables as set up through Malta's second WCMP. This will enable the involvement of all relevant stakeholders and a coordinated approach towards the implementation processes, the monitoring of the quality of stormwater (as outlined in the measures of Malta's 2nd FRMP) and the development of additional guidelines (as necessary) to promote the sustainable use of such systems.</p>	<p>prevent or control the input of pollutants. Controls may take the form of a requirement for prior regulation, such as a prohibition on the entry of pollutants into water, prior authorisation or registration based on general binding rules where such a requirement is not otherwise provided for under Community legislation. These controls shall be periodically reviewed and, where necessary, updated.</p>		<p>chemical status and which are all subject to risks of failing good status from diffuse sources of pollution associated with urban run-off.</p> <p>In parallel, the measure will contribute to achievement of the objectives of relevant Natura 2000 sites.</p>
Reducing pollution risks associated with sewage overflows	<p>Malta's Water Services Corporation has significantly invested in monitoring and control of the sewerage network, including important investments to mitigate sewage overflows from key pumping stations.</p> <p>This measure will continue to improve on the current control processes through the installation of generators</p>	<p>Article 11(3)(a): requires measures to implement Community legislation for the protection of water, including measures required under the legislation specified in</p>	KTM21	<p>This measure will contribute to maintenance or improvement of nutrient conditions in inland surface water bodies and coastal water bodies. Within this context it will contribute towards the gap towards good status for inland and transitional water bodies, but also towards maintenance of good status in coastal waters.</p>

PROPOSED MEASURE		DIRECTIVE'S REQUIREMENTS	KEY TYPE MEASURE	IMPACT OF MEASURE
TITLE	DESCRIPTION			
	<p>and retention basins (as relevant) in sewage pumping stations, thus further preventing the occurrence of sewage overflows into the surrounding environment.</p> <p>Noting the vicinity of some of the pumping stations to WFD inland and coastal surface water bodies, this measure will further contribute to the achievement of quality objectives of such water bodies [Is-Salini and coastal water bodies].</p>	<p>Article 10 and in part A of Annex VI: The Bathing Water Directive (2006/7/EC) &amp; Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC).</p>		<p>In parallel, the measure will contribute to achievement of the objectives of relevant Natura 2000 sites.</p>
<p>National guidance document on the application of WFD Article 4(7)</p>	<p>Development proposals or interventions that may result in hydromorphological modifications to WFD water bodies are subject to assessments in line with WFD Article 4(7), to ensure that any potential failure to achieve good status or to prevent deterioration in the status of a body of surface water meets the conditions stipulated by the Directive. This assessment is aligned with other environmental assessment procedures as relevant, including Environmental Impact Assessments.</p> <p>This measure will seek the development of a national guidance document on the application of WFD Article 4(7) to be used by relevant entities, project proponents and environmental consultants, whilst ensuring alignment across environmental assessment procedures. The scope of the measure is to ensure a consistent approach towards the application of Article 4(7) in accordance with the requirements of the Directive.</p>	<p>Article 11(3)(i) for any other significant adverse impacts on the status of water identified under Article 5 and Annex II, in particular measures to ensure that the hydromorphological conditions of the bodies of water are consistent with the achievement of the required ecological status or good ecological potential for bodies of water designated as artificial or heavily modified. Controls for this purpose may take the form of a requirement for prior authorisation or registration based on general binding rules where such a requirement is not otherwise provided</p>	<p>KTM6</p>	<p>This measure seeks the development of a guidance document and hence will not have a direct ecological effect. On the other hand, it seeks to address pressures on water bodies from hydromorphological alterations in a consistent manner.</p> <p>All WFD heavily modified water bodies (two watercourses, five transitional waters and three coastal water bodies) are considered to be at risk of failing good status as a result of hydromorphological alterations, therefore this measure can contribute to reduce such risks.</p>

PROPOSED MEASURE		DIRECTIVE'S REQUIREMENTS	KEY TYPE MEASURE	IMPACT OF MEASURE
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		for under Community legislation. Such controls shall be periodically reviewed and, where necessary, updated.		
Review of Malta's Nitrates Action Programme	<p>In accordance with the requirements of the Nitrates Directive 91/676/EEC as transposed through Subsidiary legislation 549.25, the Nitrates Action Programme will be reviewed and if necessary revised, on the basis of relevant information with respect to the contribution of nitrogen from agricultural sources.</p> <p>This measure will explore relevant data collection processes that can contribute to an informed review of the Action Programme and enable evaluation of its effectiveness. This would ensure that the Programme adopts the most relevant approaches in addressing nutrient input from agricultural activity. A coordinated approach in defining and, where necessary adopt, the relevant data collection processes will be ensured across all relevant entities.</p>	Article 11(3)(a): those measures required to implement Community legislation for the protection of water, including measures required under the legislation specified in Article 10 and in part A of Annex VI: The Nitrates Directive (91/676/EEC).	KTM2	<p>All three WFD watercourses are at risk of failing achievement of good status as a result of nutrient enrichment. This measure seeks to strengthen the implementation processes under the Nitrates Directive to address the gap to good status for the three inland surface water bodies.</p> <p>In parallel, the measure will contribute to achievement of the objectives of relevant Natura 2000 sites.</p>
Incentive schemes for Integrated Pest Management	<p>Malta's National Action Plan for the Sustainable Use of Pesticides (2019 - 2023) includes provisions related to Integrated Pest Management which can contribute to the goal of reducing the use of chemical and hazardous pesticides by 2030 as a target of the EU Biodiversity Strategy 2030 [COM(2020) 380 final].</p> <p>In accordance with Malta's National Action Plan, <i>"measures to promote alternate low pesticide-input pest management strategies are addressed through awareness, training in view of certification as professional users and distributors acknowledged by the Malta Competition and</i></p>	Article 11(3)(a): those measures required to implement Community legislation for the protection of water, including measures required under the legislation specified in Article 10 and in part A of Annex VI: Regulation (EC) No 1107/2009 concerning the placing of plant	KTM3	While none of the WFD surface water bodies failed chemical status as a result of Plant Protection Products, this measure will contribute to the prevention of the contamination of surface water, hence it will have a pollution reduction effect. It is primarily addressing Contaminants of Emerging Concern.

PROPOSED MEASURE		DIRECTIVE'S REQUIREMENTS	KEY TYPE MEASURE	IMPACT OF MEASURE
TITLE	DESCRIPTION			
	<p><i>Consumer Affairs Authority (MCCAA), and the availability of a Guidance Document on Integrated Pest Management in the Maltese Islands which includes recommendations on prevention and suppression of harmful organisms, monitoring, non-chemical measures, protection of bees, protection of water, protection of human health, disposal and record-keeping which are the minimum measures that farmers should implement".</i></p> <p>This measure reflects the eco-schemes adopted in line with Malta's Common Agricultural Policy Strategic Plan, which provide incentives for farmers to adopt Integrated Pest Management. Funding as part of these schemes is subject to the provision of an integrated pest management plan which is in line with guidelines issued by the Agriculture Directorate and should include at least three (3) of the listed techniques. Such eco-schemes can also promote the use of sustainable or lower risk pesticides.</p> <p>The promotion of sustainable pesticides will also be sought with official or scientific bodies involved in agricultural activities or professional agricultural organisations through facilitation of the registration process of lower risk substances which are already registered in the European Union.</p>	<p>protection products on the market and repealing Council Directives 79/117/EEC and 91/414/EEC.</p>		
Environmental Permitting System	<p>The Environmental Permitting System addresses point discharges to surface coastal waters from installations through the setting of Emission Limit Values, as well as diffuse sources of pollution through the elaboration of preventive measures in permits.</p> <p>This measure refers to the continued implementation of the environmental permitting system and takes forward</p>	<p>Article 11(3)(g) for point source discharges liable to cause pollution, a requirement for prior regulation, such as a prohibition on the entry of pollutants into water, or for prior authorisation, or</p>	KTM15	<p>This measure is a continuation of measures put forward as part of Malta's second WCMP. However, it will seek to ensure improvements in the process.</p> <p>Point discharges are only allowed in coastal waters. Although none of the coastal water bodies failed chemical status, this measure will continue to contribute to a reduction in pollution in marine waters.</p>

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	<p>the parallel implementation of the following measures reported through Malta's second WCMP:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• KEY 1: Continue to refine the regulatory framework for industrial operational practices;</li> <li>• SWM 1: Continue to strengthen the relationship between environmental and planning regulatory processes (including Marine Strategy Framework Directive concerns).</li> <li>• SWM 2: Continue to control priority hazardous substances, priority substances and other substances of concern via the environmental permitting process</li> <li>• KEY 2: Create an effective feedback mechanism within the Environment and Resources Authority to ensure compliance and risk mitigation</li> </ul> <p>One aspect that will be given due importance through this measure is a feedback mechanism, whereby data generated through ongoing research and monitoring processes informs any necessary updates to the environmental permits. Such mechanism will ensure that the permits are adequately contributing to the achievement of quality objectives for coastal water bodies through targeted control of chemical contaminants.</p> <p>The updating of guidance documents to facilitate the permitting processes across relevant actors will continue to be sought.</p>	<p>registration based on general binding rules, laying down emission controls for the pollutants concerned, including controls in accordance with Articles 10 and 16. These controls shall be periodically reviewed and, where necessary, updated.</p> <p>Article 11(3)(h) for diffuse sources liable to cause pollution, measures to prevent or control the input of pollutants. Controls may take the form of a requirement for prior regulation, such as a prohibition on the entry of pollutants into water, prior authorisation or registration based on general binding rules where such a requirement is not otherwise provided for under Community legislation. These controls shall be periodically reviewed and, where necessary, updated.</p>		



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Enabling identification of substance-specific measures through a risk assessment process.	<p>Malta's second WCMP put forward a number of measures targeting improved knowledge on sources of contaminants and/or pathways of contamination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SWM 10: Establish a Mercury Management Plan to enable the investigation of potential sources of mercury and potential mitigation measures</li> <li>• KNO 3: Characterise and quantify hydrological input of land-based contaminants (including litter) to coastal waters from major sub catchments</li> <li>• KNO 4: Investigate the role transboundary contaminants through hydrographic pathways and the extent of its contribution to marine contamination.</li> <li>• KNO 5: Carry out investigations to gauge potential contribution of contaminants to our coastal waters by atmospheric deposition</li> <li>• KNO 6: Carry out a survey of all direct discharges to sea and identify their source with the objective of setting up a plan to curtail/regulate such discharges</li> </ul> <p>Improvement in knowledge on potential local sources of contaminants is being primarily achieved through LIFE16 IPE/MT/000008 whereby data collection processes are being implemented to (i) characterise the quality of wastewater as a primary route through which contaminants reach marine waters noting that urban waste water treatment plants discharge into coastal waters; (ii) attain a better understanding of contaminants which reach waters through diffuse sources of pollution; and (iii) determine the relevance of contaminants of emerging concern for Malta's water environment. Such data collection processes, coupled to the outcome of monitoring under WFD and MSFD processes, will be</p>	<p>Article 11(3)(g) for point source discharges liable to cause pollution, a requirement for prior regulation, such as a prohibition on the entry of pollutants into water, or for prior authorisation, or registration based on general binding rules, laying down emission controls for the pollutants concerned, including controls in accordance with Articles 10 and 16. These controls shall be periodically reviewed and, where necessary, updated;</p> <p>Article 11(3)(h) for diffuse sources liable to cause pollution, measures to prevent or control the input of pollutants. Controls may take the form of a requirement for prior regulation, such as a prohibition on the entry of pollutants into water, prior authorisation or registration based on general binding rules where such a requirement is not otherwise provided</p>	KTM14	This measure will enable prioritisation of management/regulatory regimes targeting the most important sources of contamination of Malta's waters, while also enabling the identification of substance-specific measures. This measure will thus contribute to address the gaps towards achievement of good chemical status for inland surface and transitional water bodies.

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TITLE	DESCRIPTION			
	<p>providing a holistic overview of the contaminants which are relevant, and which are posing the highest risks, to Malta's waters.</p> <p>This measure will involve a risk assessment to prioritise contaminants on the basis of the risk posed on surface water quality. The risk assessment will be primarily based on the status assessment under the WFD, the outcome of monitoring processes and other data collection processes as per relevant actions under LIFE16 IPE/MT/000008. The prioritised contaminants identified through such risk assessment will be subject to further assessment to identify sources and pathways, taking forward the above measures put forward by the 2<sup>nd</sup> WCMP.</p>	<p>for under Community legislation. These controls shall be periodically reviewed and, where necessary, updated.</p>		
<p>Educational campaign supporting objectives of the Single-Use Plastic Products Strategy for Malta 2021-2030 adopted in 2021</p>	<p>The Single-Use Plastic Strategy as adopted by Malta in September 2021 puts forward several measures aiming at the reduction of the introduction of litter into coastal waters, including inter alia measures related to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- the design and production phase, to avoid leakage of plastic in the environment and increase in the use of alternative materials;</li> <li>- the use and consumption phase with appropriate labelling, the introduction of economic instruments and better regulations and monitoring, to restrict the availability of certain single-use plastic products and promote the use of alternatives;</li> <li>- the waste management phase to improve the collection and recycling of plastic waste.</li> </ul> <p>All three phases should be accompanied by a holistic educational campaign targeting the sectors involved.</p>	<p>Supplementary Measure; Annex IV Part B: Educational Projects</p>	<p>KTM99</p>	<p>This measure will build on other policy sectors to address marine litter as an emerging pressure on water resources. It will thus contribute to the improvement of water quality of surface water bodies.</p>

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	<p>In addition, the Single-Use Plastic Framework Regulation (S.L. 549.149) stipulates legal requirements for the uptake of consumption reduction measures by catering establishments including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- provision of an adequate number of reusable alternatives to SUP food containers and cups for beverages at the point of sale</li> <li>- provision of adequate incentives to consumers to bring their own reusable alternatives to SUP food containers and cups</li> <li>- adoption of incentives to use re-usable food containers and cups for beverages, filled at the point of sale, with the aim to reduce the use of SUPs</li> <li>- restrictions on the provision of SUP food containers and cups for beverages at the point of sale</li> </ul> <p>The successful implementation of the regulations relies on educational campaigns or strategies that facilitate the uptake of such measures by catering establishments.</p> <p>The need to reach out to all relevant stakeholders to promote contributions towards reduction of marine litter across sectors was recognised by Malta's second WCMP (AWA 1) and the marine strategies pursuant to the EU Marine Strategy Framework Directive. The 3rd RBMP will widen the scope of the measure put forward by the second WCMP and will seek to strengthen the objectives and measures adopted through the different policy processes by engaging in targeted promotional processes across all relevant sectors, while identifying and putting forward relevant initiatives to facilitate uptake of existing regulations aimed at reducing marine litter.</p>			

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TITLE	DESCRIPTION			
Management of pressures from boating activity in coastal waters.	<p>Boating activity in coastal waters is an important pressure on both ecological and chemical status of coastal water bodies.</p> <p>Pressures from anchoring activity on seagrass meadows as one of the Biological Quality Elements of coastal water bodies is currently being subject to studies as part of LIFE 16 IPE MT 008 and addressed as part of the management of Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The inclusion of such measure in the 3rd RBMP seeks to reinforce the MPA management process, by confirming the need to take the studies further and implement feasible management options targeting reduction of impacts from anchoring activity on a pilot basis in WFD coastal water bodies and MPAs.</p> <p>The measure will also take a holistic approach towards management of pressures related to boating activity, particularly by taking forward previous measure SWM 11 which sought the harmonisation of swimming zones and bathing areas in consideration of the possible interactions of recreational boating with bathing water quality. In this regard, this measure will continue to seek discussions through the Bathing Water Committee with respect to potential pressures of recreational boating on bathing water quality.</p>	Supplementary Measure; Annex IV Part B	KTM19	<p>While coastal water bodies achieved good status, this measure will contribute to the maintenance or localised improvement of the ecological status of one of the main Biological Quality Elements for coastal waters: <i>Posidonia oceanica</i>.</p> <p>This measure is also aligned with the site-specific objectives of Marine Protected Areas.</p>
Setting of Environmental Quality Standards in sediments	Assessment of chemical status is primarily based on the concentration of contaminants in the water column and/or biota (as relevant) in accordance with Directive 2013/39/EU. Contaminants in sediment are assessed on the basis of trends. In order to determine any potential exceedances of sediment contamination, Malta has so far	Supplementary Measure; Annex IV Part B	KTM14	Noting that measure is more related to knowledge improvement, it is not associated with direct effects on ecology or pollution reduction. However, it will enable an improved assessment of status in relation to chemical pollution.

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	<p>utilised Environmental Quality Standards for contaminants in sediment as stipulated by neighbouring countries.</p> <p>This measure will seek, through engagement of experts in the field, to ensure the applicability of EQSs for sediments in Maltese coastal waters and define methodologies how such would contribute to a more holistic assessment of status.</p>			
Enabling restoration of watercourses delineated as WFD water bodies	<p>Malta's second WCMP called for the development of a strategic policy framework to encourage integrated valley management (SWM 14). Through this action, management plans for valleys were developed as part of LIFE16 IPE/MT000008.</p> <p>Within this wider management framework, this measure will be focusing on the three WFD watercourses (Wied il-Luq, Wied tal-Baħrija and Wied tal-Lunzjata), taking forward management/restoration needs in a phased approach. This approach acknowledges that effectiveness in management of the three watercourses hinges on the involvement of landowners, users, and the farming communities within the areas in question. In this regard, this measure will seek to identify all relevant stakeholders and engage them in identifying feasible management and/or restoration approaches through <i>inter alia</i> the review and assessment of current barriers and their uses, as well as options for control of non-indigenous species and replacement with typical riparian species.</p> <p>This measure will cover the initial steps in defining targeted restoration plans in agreement with the relevant stakeholders through the setting up of stakeholder platforms as necessary and/or relevant for each of the three watercourses. On the basis of the outcome of such</p>	Supplementary Measure; Annex IV Part B	KTM7	<p>This measure will contribute towards addressing the gap in the achievement of good ecological status/potential and good chemical status of the three WFD watercourses.</p> <p>Wied tal-Baħrija is located within Special Area of Conservation MT0000024; Wied il-Luq is located within Special Area of Conservation MT0000018 and Wied tal-Lunzjata is located within Special Area of Conservation MT0000020. The measure will contribute to the achievement of Favourable Conservation Status of habitats within these SACs that are associated with freshwater.</p>

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	measure, the management/restoration plans will be taken forward in upcoming WFD implementation cycles.			
Hydromorphological assessment targeting stabilisation of physico-chemical conditions in two transitional water bodies	<p>L-Ghadira and Is-Simar are two transitional water bodies which are designated as Special Areas of Conservation under the Habitats Directive 92/43/EEC and Special Protected Areas under the Birds Directive 2009/147/EC. Both sites are currently subject to increasing trends in water salinity, also as a result of reduced rainfall. Such increasing trends in salinity may potentially impact avifauna and other biodiversity associated with the transitional water bodies.</p> <p>This measure seeks an assessment of the hydrology of the two sites and their wider catchment areas (which is partly covered through the implementation of the WFD monitoring programme). Following this study, mitigation measures will be elaborated considering <i>inter alia</i> potential engineering works, regular artificial recharges and maintenance interventions that would enable improved water flows and stabilisation of salinity levels. The focus will be on reaching optimal water quality conditions for avifauna and the ecological communities associated with the transitional water bodies.</p>	Article 11(3)(a): those measures required to implement Community legislation for the protection of water, including measures required under the legislation specified in Article 10 and in part A of Annex VI: Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC) and Birds Directive (79/409/EEC)	KTM6	<p>These measure seek to address pressures from hydromorphological alterations on three transitional water bodies with a view to work towards achievement of good ecological potential across all relevant Biological Quality Elements (noting that these heavily modified water bodies achieved good ecological status for some BQEs).</p> <p>This measure will contribute to protection of birds as part of the objectives of the SPAs MT0000006 (Is-Simar) and MT0000015 (L-Ghadira) and the habitats associated with transitional waters within Special Area of Conservation MT0000007 (Is-Salini).</p>
Restoration of water circulation in Salini	<p>Is-Salini is a transitional water body that is characterised by a channel of water (Tas-Sokkorsu canal) running on both sides of salt pans and connected with seawater at both ends. Poor circulation along this channel is leading to sub-optimal conditions for the aquatic ecosystems associated with the water body.</p> <p>This measure will seek to identify and implement interventions required to improve the water circulation. Consideration will be particularly given to the regular</p>	Article 11(3)(a): those measures required to implement Community legislation for the protection of water, including measures required under the legislation specified in Article 10 and in part A of	KTM6	

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	<p>maintenance of the water exchange system as well as the restoration of a historical breakwater which would ensure a unilateral and continuous flow along the whole channel, thus restoring the original water circulation within the site.</p> <p>Planned interventions will need to be sensitive to the cultural importance of the site which is protected on a national level in view of the salt pan complex' architecture.</p>	Annex VI: Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC);		
Restoration techniques for freshwater pools	<p>L-Għadira ta' Sarraflu is a very small freshwater pool with limited water flow and circulation. This pool is thus very susceptible to high nutrient concentrations and associated episodes of algal blooms.</p> <p>This measure will be exploring options for the restoration of the pool and the long-term improvement in water quality. On the basis of the most feasible options, an implementation plan will be developed and works undertaken accordingly.</p> <p>The implementation plan will address other threats and pressures at the site in question, including the continuation of the removal of non-indigenous species as per previously reported measure SWM 12 [<i>Extend the basic measure related to the removal of alien species from the Qattara habitat, as identified in the Natura 2000 Management Plan, to Għadira ta' Sarraflu</i>]</p>	Supplementary Measure; Annex IV Part B	KTM99	<p>This measure will seek to address the gap towards achievement of good ecological and chemical status in this freshwater pool.</p> <p>L-Għadira ta' Sarraflu is protected under the Environment Protection Act as a Special Area of Conservation of National Importance. The pool is also designated as an Area of Ecological Importance and Site of Scientific Importance.</p>
Restoration of Transitional Water Bodies	<p>This measure will continue to implement the restoration efforts for the transitional water body of Il-Ballut (Marsaxlokk), based on a hydromorphological assessment of the site in question. Priority will be given to the implementation of restoration measures targeting reduction in coastal erosion, noting that this is one of the</p>	Article 11(3)(a): those measures required to implement Community legislation for the protection of water, including measures	KTM99	<p>This measure will seek to address the gap towards achievement of good ecological potential and chemical status in transitional water bodies, more specifically Il-Ballut ta' Marsaxlokk.</p>

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	<p>major pressures on this site. Other restoration measures will be implemented in a phased approach.</p> <p>The restoration of il-Ballut is being undertaken as a demonstration project as part of LIFE16 IPE/MT000008. On the basis of this measure, further restoration techniques will be developed in relation to the other transitional water bodies, and these will feed into the RBMP measures targeting such water bodies to ensure an adaptive management approach.</p>	<p>required under the legislation specified in Article 10 and in part A of Annex VI: Habitats Directive (92/43/EEC);</p>		<p>Il-Ballut ta' Marsaxlokk and the other transitional water bodies are all covered by Natura 2000 designations as follows:</p> <p>MT0000006; MT0000007; MT0000014; MT0000015 and MT0000023.</p> <p>Therefore, this measure will contribute to the achievement of objectives for these Natura 2000 sites.</p>
<p>Increasing the production capacity and plant upgrades of desalinated water for municipal supply purposes</p>	<p>The WSC will be upgrading the seawater Desalination Plants and increasing the production capacity of desalinated water from 74,000m<sup>3</sup>/day in 2019 to 112,500m<sup>3</sup>/day by end 2023. The upgrades also focus on the energy consumption of the plants, which will be optimised further.</p> <p>The increased production capacity will enable the utilisation of a higher proportion of desalinated water in the municipal water mix, optimising the quality of drinking water and ensuring a higher level of compliance with the indicator parameters of the Drinking Water Directive. The measure will also result in a reduction in the volume of groundwater abstracted by the WSC.</p>	<p>Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure</p>	<p>KTM24</p>	<p>Implementation of measure will result in an increased production capacity of desalinated water of 6,351,000m<sup>3</sup> per year.</p> <p>This increased production capacity will enable WSC to better manage groundwater resources and maintain current abstraction levels whilst ensuring security of supply.</p>
<p>Optimising groundwater abstraction framework to reduce localized seawater intrusion</p>	<p>The WSC will be re-commissioning a number of groundwater abstraction sources in operation to spread groundwater abstraction over a higher number of sources. As part of this process abstraction stations are also being fitted with variable speed pumps which enable abstraction rates to be remotely varied according to the quality of abstracted groundwater.</p> <p>Within the overall framework of groundwater management, WSC will be reducing the total volume of</p>	<p>Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure</p>	<p>KTM24</p>	<p>The implementation of the measure will result in spreading groundwater abstraction and thereby limit the occurrence of salt-water upconing under groundwater abstraction sources, resulting in a better quality (in terms of salinity) of the groundwater blend.</p>



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	groundwater abstracted and spread the abstracted volume over a higher number of abstraction sources. This will result in lower flow rates from specific abstraction sources thereby providing added protection from localized seawater intrusion and hence protecting against the qualitative deterioration of sea-level groundwater bodies.			
Reducing leakages in the Municipal Water Network	<p>This is an ongoing measure intended to optimise the operational efficiency of the water distribution system. As a result of this measure the Infrastructure Leakage Index (ILI) was reduced to a level of 1.87 with a leakage rate of 389 m<sup>3</sup>/hr for the whole of the Maltese Islands in 2020.</p> <p>Through the implementation of this measure, WSC will maintain this effort to reduce leakages to a flow rate closer to the economically optimal level of leakage for the water distribution network in Malta.</p>	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM8	Measure will enable the continued containment of leakage levels in the public distribution network. Lower leakage levels require less production of water – hence enabling the better protection of groundwater and avoidance of production of desalinated water.
Optimisation of the municipal supply network	This measure involves the commissioning of a tunnel linking the Pembroke Desalination plant and the Ta' Qali group of reservoirs reducing the elevation of which the desalinated water needs to be pumped by 25 m from the current 125 m. This will reduce the energy required for the operation of the municipal water distribution network.	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM8	Reduction of energy consumption for the distribution of drinking water, as well as enabling the utilisation of the full blending potential of desalinated water leading to better drinking water quality.
Increasing the production capacity of reclaimed water treatment plants (New Water) and the extension of the distribution network for reclaimed water.	<p>This measure focuses on increasing the production and distribution capacity of reclaimed water in the Malta South, Malta North and Gozo regions. The completion of the reclaimed water distribution network together with the commissioning of additional water dispensers will extend access to the agricultural community that are still reliant on groundwater.</p> <p>The use of reclaimed water by the agricultural sector in substitution of groundwater will result in reducing the</p>	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM24	Increasingly address irrigation water demand through the use of alternative water resources thereby reducing the pressures on groundwater resources.

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	dependence of the sector on groundwater reducing existing pressures on groundwater.			
Dissemination of information regarding New Water for irrigation at the Government Experimental Farm in Gozo	The use of reclaimed water by the agricultural sector will act as a substitute of groundwater, thereby reducing the dependence and pressures on this resource. Information and training will be given to stakeholders within the sector in order to ensure that the use of New Water has a good uptake.	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM24	Increased awareness on the effective use of New Water in the agricultural sector, to support efficient use of this resource.
Development of a National Water Efficiency label	This measure focuses on the development of a National Water Efficiency Label intended to support consumers in making informed decisions on the purchase of more water efficient devices and appliances.  The implementation of the measure will be supported through ongoing information campaigns on water demand management.  The measure forms part of the LIFE 16 IPE MT 008 Project.	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM8	Increased information to consumers to promote the market infiltration of water efficient use-points and appliances, contributing to a more efficient use of water at the national level.
Support schemes for the uptake of greywater recycling systems in the domestic sector	The objective of this measure is to enable and facilitate the adoption of grey water reuse technology within the domestic sector. In-house recycling of grey waters for secondary uses has the potential to reduce direct water reuse within the household sector by around 30%.  The measure involves:  (i) the formulation of a proposal for the review of the regulatory framework for greywater reuse,	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM8	The measure is intended to facilitate the market entry of greywater reuse technology in order to enable increased efficiency in household water use.

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	(ii) the drafting and implementation of a financial support scheme to support the market entry and adoption of such technologies.			
Support scheme for the restoration of rainwater harvesting facilities in the domestic sector.	The objective of this measures is to further encourage the harvesting and use of rainwater in the domestic sector. This measure will therefore allow damaged or unused rainwater harvesting structures to be reinstated and to be included as a second-class water system within the domestic sector.	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM8	Measure aims to promote the use of rainwater runoff for secondary uses, reducing the dependence of households on the municipal supply – hence reducing impact on groundwater resources and the need to produce water by sea-water desalination.
Support scheme for the restoration of communal rainwater harvesting reservoirs by Local Authorities	This measure will support Local Authorities in identifying and restoring communal public rainwater harvesting reservoirs located in their locality.	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM99	Measure will facilitate access to water in localities – supporting the sustainability of urban greening projects as well as contributing to the management of urban floods.
Support scheme for the uptake of greywater recycling systems in the commercial sector.	The objective of this measure is to enable and facilitate the adoption of grey water reuse technology within the commercial sector. Built in systems for grey water recycling for secondary uses has the potential to reduce direct water reuse within the commercial sector.  The measure involves:  (i) the formulation of a proposal for the review of the regulatory framework for greywater reuse,  (ii) the drafting and implementation of a financial support scheme to support the market entry and adoption of such technologies.	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM8	Increase in house recycling capacity thereby increasing the water efficiency of commercial enterprises and lowering their dependence on the municipal water supply.

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Revision of the existing regulatory framework for the construction of rainwater harvesting cisterns in new developments.	The objective of this measure focuses on the revision the existing regulatory framework in relation to the developing of rainwater harvesting facilities with new developments. This will be undertaken as part of a broader revision process dealing with the review of Technical Guidance Document F – Conservation of Fuel, Energy and Natural Resources, and the establishment of the administrative framework required for the effective application of its provisions. Efforts to ensure proper enforcement of this measure are foreseen.	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTm8	Development of the regulatory framework required to enforce requirements for rainwater harvesting infrastructure with new developments.
Household Water Consumption Audits	This measure focuses on the provision of free water and energy consumption audits to households, where residents are made aware of their water use practices and informed on potential changes which can make their household more water efficient.	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTm8	Increased awareness on water conservation in the general public.
Vulnerable Households Scheme	Vulnerable households are the people who are mostly likely to benefit from the interventions related to the replacement of inefficient water using devices and appliances. The objective of this measure is therefore to determine, following an initial site visit, whether the existing appliances are leading to the inefficient use of water resources, which will eventually be replaced with more water efficient models. This measure will also directly impact the energy consumption of the respective household.  The measure also addresses potential cases of water-poverty.	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTm8	Support vulnerable households in optimising their water use thereby also addressing potential cases of water-poverty.
Increase the accessibility to water	The WSC provides a service to consumers where water account holders (consumers) can login into a dedicated portal to monitor their daily, weekly, or monthly water consumption. Water users are able to track their usage	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTm8	Increase awareness on water conservation in the general public.

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consumption information.	<p>and identify ways how water can be used more efficiently or identify existing leakages within their water supply system. Furthermore, the Corporation provides a messaging system alerting consumers registering abnormal consumption patterns.</p> <p>The implementation of this measure shall also be complemented with an information campaign to increase the existing awareness on the availability of this tool amongst the general public.</p>			
Development of an interactive water-use game.	<p>The objective of this measure is that of developing an interactive game, focusing on the day-to-day water use practices, to educate and inform the general public on the importance of using water resources in an efficient and sustainable manner.</p> <p>By gamifying the concept of day-to-day water consumption, this measure will seek to indirectly affect the water consumption characteristics of the younger generations and their respective households.</p> <p>This measure forms part of the LIFE 16 IPE MT 008 project.</p>	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM8	Increase awareness on water conservation in the general public.
Support scheme for Voluntary and Sport Organisations to optimise water and energy consumption.	The Energy and Water Agency shall continue its efforts to aid voluntary and sports organisations, as done in previous schemes, through financial support to allow these organisations to invest in water and energy saving measures within their establishments	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM8	Improve efficient water use in the voluntary sector (NGOs) and promote water efficient techniques with their members.
Technical support for small and medium sized enterprises to	Through this measure, the Energy and Water Agency shall continue with its direct contact with the small and medium enterprises through:	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM8	Improve efficient water use in the commercial sector.

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better manage energy and water use.	<p>(i) the provision of water and energy audits to enable a thorough review of the entity's activities and identify any actions and investments which can be carried in order to shift to more water efficient practices;</p> <p>(ii) Mentoring sessions were enterprises would share knowledge from their successful projects with other enterprises; and</p> <p>(iii) participation in projects were enterprises take on board and implement sustainable actions towards energy and water conservation.</p>			
Support schemes for small and medium sized enterprises to optimise operational efficiency including in use of water and energy.	Support scheme managed by Malta Enterprise that finance either through tax credits or cash grants of up to Eur50,000, investments by commercial entities in operational improvement, including investments aimed at reducing the consumption of water aimed at the sustainable use of this resource.	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM8	Improve efficiency in water use in the commercial sector.
Support scheme for the uptake of efficient irrigation systems by the agricultural sector.	Financial schemes to support the development of rainwater harvesting systems, the adoption of efficient irrigation techniques and water management technologies in the animal husbandry sector.	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM8	Improve efficiency in water use in the agricultural sector.
Use of remote sensing for crop water demand assessment.	The objective of this measure is to create a tool for the assessment of the irrigation water demand of the agricultural sector. The availability of this tool will assist with the better understanding of the water use characteristics of the agricultural sector. The availability of this information can also provide an opportunity for farmers to be informed and supported through adequate	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM8	Development of technical capacity to enable a more reliable estimation of water use for agricultural irrigation thereby supporting quantitative status assessments.

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TITLE	DESCRIPTION			
	information on their irrigation practices and crop water use characteristics.			
Research and Innovation Scheme for the Energy and Water Sectors.	An R&I strategy specifically for projects within the fields of energy and water was unveiled in 2020 together with an annual fund for research projects within these two important sectors. This annual call for research projects will be maintained over the next cycle to increase local R&I activities in the energy and water sectors drive positive impacts in the sector.	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM14	Funding of R&I initiatives addressing issues of relevance to the local water sector including: - water efficient use - water use in agriculture - non conventional water resources
Upgrade of the National Hydrological Monitoring Network	The objective of this measure is the continued upgrade the national hydrological monitoring network with the following specific aims:  (i) develop the capacity for multi-level groundwater qualitative assessments, and  (ii) upgrade the inland runoff monitoring network to better assess the relationship between rainfall, runoff, recharge, and evapo-transpiration for six catchments, and through a separate monitoring network, provide the basis for the determination of runoff levels in major catchments potentially affected by flood risk and enable the assessment of the relationship between flood risk and rainfall characteristics.	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM14	Continued improvement in the national hydrological monitoring capacity with the aim of increasing reliability of status assessments.
Development of a National Valley Management Plan.	This measure entails the development of Master Plans and Technical Guidelines for 12 major catchments in the Maltese Islands with guidance frameworks for the management of water resources that can be replicated in other catchments in the Maltese Islands.	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM23	Coordinated framework for the long-term management of valley systems to optimize their water retention capacity.

PROPOSED MEASURE		DIRECTIVE'S REQUIREMENTS	KEY TYPE MEASURE	IMPACT OF MEASURE
TITLE	DESCRIPTION			
Rehabilitation works in Valley Systems.	<p>The scope of rehabilitating valleys will be of protecting local flora and fauna and detailing invasive species for their removal. The works will also focus on special habitation areas and how to conserve these, whilst harvesting water for use within surrounding areas.</p> <p>This measure also includes the undertaking of rehabilitation works in at least two valley systems, one in Malta and another in Gozo and the maintenance of existing valleys systems, with the objective of harvesting increased amounts of water, both for agricultural use as well as for aquifer recharge.</p>	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM23	<p>Increase the catchment capacity of rainwater runoff in valley systems, enabling an alternative supply of water for nearby agricultural activities.</p> <p>Increase recharge to groundwater from the catchment areas.</p>
The development of technical guidelines for stormwater management and use of SUDS in the Maltese islands together with the implementation of demonstration projects.	<p>This measure involves the publishing of technical guidelines and best practices manual which will disseminated amongst stakeholders, including the public and private construction sector, to provide detailed information on the construction and maintenance of SuDS in the local context.</p> <p>Moreover, three demonstration SuDS projects will be implemented in the Maltese Islands which will be used as a test bed for different types of SuDS within the local context and to help to prove the sustainability of such stormwater management infrastructure to both public and private entities.</p>	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM23	Development of technical guidelines to promote (and facilitate) the application of SUDS in the local context.
Support schemes for the promotion of Green Urban Infrastructure.	<p>This measure entails the launch of financial support schemes to enable households and local authorities to invest in greening initiatives in urban areas, such as green roofs, green walls, and green open areas.</p> <p>From a water management perspective, green urban infrastructures support the optimized management of</p>	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM23	Increase recharge to groundwater through the impermeabilization of hard standing areas transformed into green infrastructure, as well as increase the capacity for harvesting rainwater runoff in urban areas.



PROPOSED MEASURE		DIRECTIVE'S REQUIREMENTS	KEY TYPE MEASURE	IMPACT OF MEASURE
TITLE	DESCRIPTION			
	rainwater runoff reducing flood risk and increase the recharge to groundwater.			
Managed Aquifer Recharge scheme in the Pwales Groundwater Body.	<p>This measure relates to the application of a Managed Aquifer Recharge scheme within the Pwales aquifer system, located in the northern region of the island of Malta. The Pwales Valley groundwater body is characterized by high concentrations of nitrate and chloride due to an intense agricultural activity which results in the overexploitation of the aquifer system. To enhance the status of this groundwater body, the MAR scheme will inject high quality recharge water in the Pwales groundwater body, thereby contributing to the augmentation of groundwater resources (supporting the achievement of Quantitative Status objectives) and to the dilution and flushing out of contaminants from the groundwater body (supporting the achievement of Qualitative status objectives).</p> <p>The quantitative and qualitative status of the Pwales Valley MAR scheme will be monitored in specific monitoring wells localised in suitable locations with increasing radial distance from the MAR scheme, to assess the impact of the MAR scheme. This monitoring framework is intended to assess the geochemical qualitative status of the groundwater body through the analysis of key monitoring parameters in water samples, which will be monitored daily with multiparametric probes, and monthly with laboratory analysis for a comprehensive assessment of the qualitative status of the groundwater body. Automatic water level meters will be installed into piezometers and real-time data acquisition systems will be implemented to cease the injection flow</p>	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM14	Assess the feasibility of Managed Aquifer Recharge schemes and develop guidelines for their future application. Sustain the Pwales Groundwater Body to achieve good quantitative status.

PROPOSED MEASURE		DIRECTIVE'S REQUIREMENTS	KEY TYPE MEASURE	IMPACT OF MEASURE
TITLE	DESCRIPTION			
	rate if water table mounds exceed a safety unsaturated thickness to prevent waterlogging.			
Educational Activities on Water Conservation.	<p>A water educational programme targeted specifically at younger generations will continue to increase awareness in school children about the scarcity of natural water resources in the Maltese Islands and promote water conservation amongst the younger generations. This through educational activities undertaken at the National Water Conservation Awareness Centre – GHAIN, as well as school outreach activities.</p> <p>Moreover, a water sustainability course for the corporate sector will help create awareness about water conservation at the workplace through a series of workshops highlighting best practices for water conservation within various work environments and practical steps of how these can be achieved.</p>	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM8	Increase awareness on water conservation and promote simple everyday actions which are key for ensuring that water is used efficiently.
Specific Research on Local Hydrogeology.	<p>The aim of this measure is to broaden and contribute to the existing body of knowledge on the various aspects of Malta's hydrogeology. This shall be achieved through the continuation of the existing research on the identification and delineation of groundwater subsurface coastal discharge sites and the characteristics of the discharges including flow and seasonal variations.</p> <p>Furthermore, research shall also focus on the geochemical characterization of carbonate formations, with reference to determining any geogenic (natural) occurrences of parameters, thereby enabling the correlation of geochemistry with hydrochemistry.</p>	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM14	Improve the conceptual understanding of the different aquifer systems in the Maltese islands thereby contributing to the status assessment and the justifications of any applicable extensions of deadlines under Article 4 of the WFD.

PROPOSED MEASURE		DIRECTIVE'S REQUIREMENTS	KEY TYPE MEASURE	IMPACT OF MEASURE
TITLE	DESCRIPTION			
	Concurrently studies shall be carried out on groundwater age, using natural isotopes, to further substantiate information on the reaction time of groundwater bodies.			
Economic Assessment of Environmental costs and benefits.	This measure will launch a study focusing on a first assessment of Environmental and Resource costs and benefits associated with water use in Malta and thus provide the information base required to better guide the future application of Article 9 WFD	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM14	Development of the information base necessary to ensure the development of an equitable water pricing policy which takes due considerations of the environmental, economic, and social costs and benefits generated by different water use activities.
Establishing a Stakeholder Engagement Framework.	<p>This measure shall continue with the implementation of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Water to oversee the implementation of the 3rd RBMP. The Committee will monitor and follow-up on the measures planned for implementation as part of the 3rd RBMP with the entities responsible for the implementation of these measures over the lifetime of the 3rd RBMP.</p> <p>The measure will also continue the meetings of the National Stakeholder Water Table, a technical discussion platform established between stakeholder entities from the public and private sector to discuss and review the implementation of the 3rd RBMP.</p>	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM99	Increased engagement with stakeholders from the public and private sectors with the aim of ensuring a continuous consultation process to guide the implementation of the 3 <sup>rd</sup> RBMP.
Drought Monitoring Framework	Through this measure EWA shall establish an observatory to monitor Malta's semi-arid climate and improve the existing data flows and capacity building to address the analysis and interpretation of hydro-climatic data. Malta is already facing the impacts of water scarcity and drought events and therefore the establishment of this observatory will enable Malta to adequately plan and address the existing and future extreme scenarios.	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM24	This measure will focus on the collation, management and interpretation of data pertaining to water scarcity and drought with the aim of increasing awareness on the current status and emerging trends in the natural water cycle.
Pilot study on the rehabilitation of	The study will have the scope of assessing the current condition of existing springs networks, to evaluate their	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM14	By assessing the potential for the rehabilitation of spring systems, this measure will seek to optimize the use of

PROPOSED MEASURE		DIRECTIVE'S REQUIREMENTS	KEY TYPE MEASURE	IMPACT OF MEASURE
TITLE	DESCRIPTION			
perched aquifer springs as an irrigation water supply.	water quality and quantity, and identify potential challenges or issues that may hinder their rehabilitation. The results of this study will make efforts to restore the springs more feasible and will ensure a sustainable water supply for agricultural purposes.			groundwater resources in particular those generated from the perched aquifer systems – increasing the sustainability and security of supply for the agricultural sector.
Development of a Groundwater Abstraction Licensing Framework.	This measure will work on the development of a groundwater abstraction licensing framework with the aim of better regulating groundwater abstraction by users in the agricultural, commercial, and domestic sectors. The licensing framework will enable the application of a water pricing policy which aims to protect the availability and needs of users, through incentivising efficient use of water. This with the scope of contributing to the achievement of good groundwater quantitative status.	Water Framework Directive – Supplementary Measure	KTM11	The measure will enable the regulation of private groundwater abstraction sources, enabling the protection of users who operate responsibly and generate environmental and economic benefits, whilst addressing inefficient water use.

## 8.4 Key Type Measures

The individual measures, which are outlined in Section 8.3 above, have been grouped into Key Types of Measures (KTMs) to simplify the level of detail of the measures. The list of KTMs which can be utilised are predefined and is common to all Member States for the purpose of reporting. The list of KTMs which have been considered as being applicable for the 3<sup>rd</sup> RBMP are listed below in Table 2.

The measures with the 3<sup>rd</sup> RBMP address more than 15 of the KTM categories as a result of the variety of measures which are included in the plan to address Malta's water management issues holistically. The measures within the 3<sup>rd</sup> RBMP, categorised by the respective KTM, are shown in Figure 1 below.

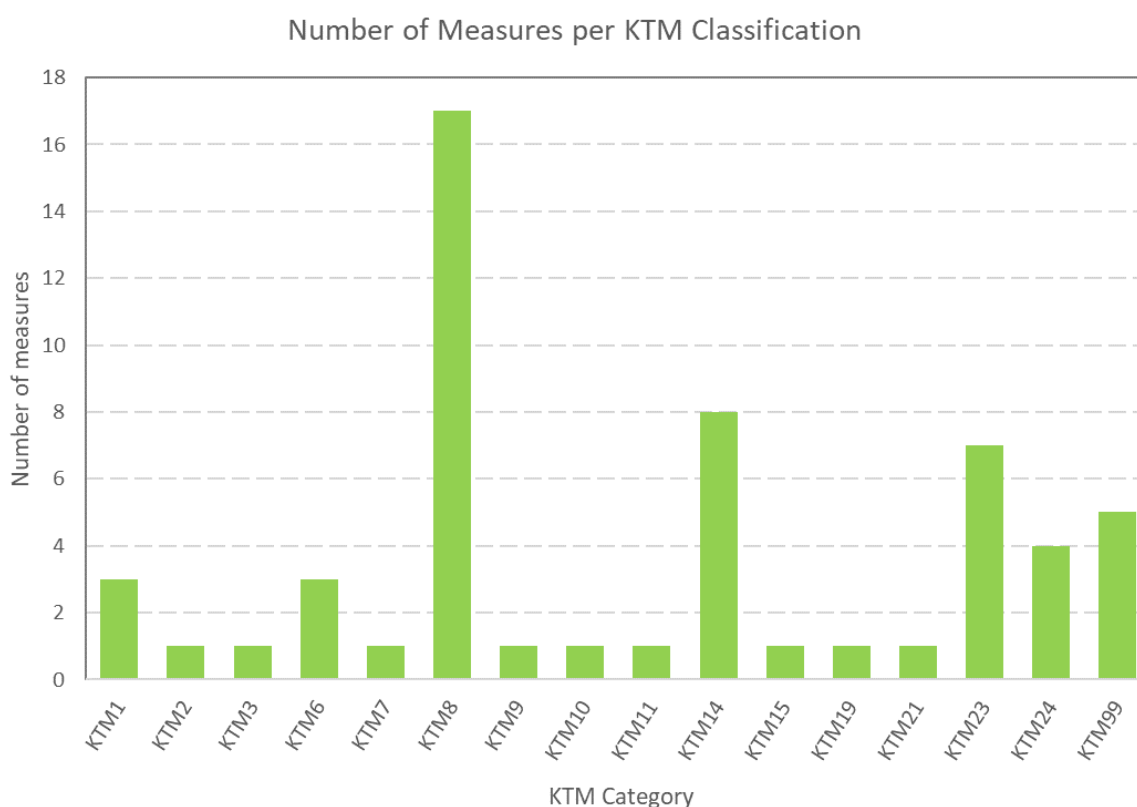


Figure 12: The measures included in the 3<sup>rd</sup> RBMP categorised by the predefined Key Type Measures.

A total of 17 measures are addressing the KTM focusing on *Water efficiency, technical measures for irrigation, industry, energy and households* (KTM 8), given that the 3<sup>rd</sup> RBMP is particularly focusing on continuously improving the management of national water demand the level of efficiency at the point of use. The 3<sup>rd</sup> RBMP is also giving due importance to research to improve the existing knowledge base and reduce uncertainty (KTM 14). Within the 3<sup>rd</sup> RBMP 8 measures are addressing this KTM to improve the exiting level of knowledge on the specific components of Malta's hydrological cycle. Measures addressing natural water retention are also an important group of measures which have been included within the 3<sup>rd</sup> RBMP as evidenced by KTM 23.

Table 23: List of Key Type Measures, as categorised according to the Water Framework Directive reporting requirements.

KTMID	EURBDCODE	KEYYPEMEASURE	KEYYPEMEASUREOTHER
1	MTMALTA	KTM1 – Construction or upgrades of wastewater treatment plants	
2	MTMALTA	KTM10 – Water pricing policy measures for the implementation of the recovery of cost of water services from industry	
3	MTMALTA	KTM11 – Water pricing policy measures for the implementation of the recovery of cost of water services from agriculture	
4	MTMALTA	KTM14 - Research, improvement of knowledge base reducing uncertainty	
5	MTMALTA	KTM15 - Measures for the phasing-out of emissions, discharges and losses of Priority Hazardous Substances or for the reduction of emissions, discharges and losses of Priority Substances	
6	MTMALTA	KTM19 - Measures to prevent or control the adverse impacts of recreation including angling	
7	MTMALTA	KTM2 - Reduce nutrient pollution from agriculture	
8	MTMALTA	KTM3 – Reduce pesticides pollution from agriculture	
9	MTMALTA	KTM6 - Improving hydromorphological conditions of water bodies other than longitudinal continuity	
10	MTMALTA	KTM7 - Improvements in flow regime and/or establishment of ecological flows	
11	MTMALTA	KTM8 – Water efficiency, technical measures for irrigation, industry, energy and households	
12	MTMALTA	KTM9 – Water pricing policy measures for the implementation of the recovery of cost of water services from households	
13	MTMALTA	KTM21 - Measures to prevent or control the input of pollution from urban areas, transport and built infrastructure	
14	MTMALTA	KTM23 – Natural water retention measures	

15	MTMALTA	KTM24 – Adaptation to climate change	
16	MTMALTA	KTM99 - Other key type measure reported under PoM	Educational campaign supporting objectives of the Single-Use Plastic Products Strategy for Malta 2021-2030 adopted in 2021
17	MTMALTA	KTM99 - Other key type measure reported under PoM	Restoration techniques for freshwater pools
18	MTMALTA	KTM99 - Other key type measure reported under PoM	Restoration of Transitional Water Bodies
19	MTMALTA	KTM99 - Other key type measure reported under PoM	Support scheme for the restoration of communal rainwater harvesting reservoirs by Local Authorities
20	MTMALTA	KTM99 - Other key type measure reported under PoM	Establishing a Stakeholder Engagement Framework