



NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE MT0000006
SITENAME Is-Simar (limiti ta' San Pawl il-Baħar)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- [1. SITE IDENTIFICATION](#)
- [2. SITE LOCATION](#)
- [3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION](#)
- [4. SITE DESCRIPTION](#)
- [6. SITE MANAGEMENT](#)
- [7. MAP OF THE SITE](#)

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type C	1.2 Site code MT0000006	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Is-Simar (limiti ta' San Pawl il-Baħar)

1.4 First Compilation date 2004-04	1.5 Update date 2018-05
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1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation:	Environment and Resources Authority
Address:	Hexagon House, Spencer Hill, Marsa MRS 1441
Email:	natura.2000@era.org.mt

1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

Date site classified as SPA:	2004-04
National legal reference of SPA designation	Government Notice No. 112 of 2007, in accordance with the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2016 (S.L. 549.44)
Date site proposed as SCI:	2004-04
Date site confirmed as SCI:	2008-03
Date site designated as SAC:	2016-12
National legal reference of SAC designation:	Government Notice No. 1379 of 2016, in accordance with the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2016 (S.L. 549.44)

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude 14.3795 Latitude 35.946

[Back to top](#)

2.2 Area [ha]:

58.38

2.3 Marine area [%]

0.0

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

MT00	Malta
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2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Mediterranean (100.0
%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

[Back to top](#)

3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A B C D	A B C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
1150 B			3.32		G	B	A	B	B
3170 B			0.07		M	C	C	B	C
5410 B			3.01		G	C	C	B	B

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

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

Species					Population in the site					Site assessment				
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D. qual.	A B C D	A B C		
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
B	A298	Acrocephalus arundinaceus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A293	Acrocephalus melanopogon			w				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A293	Acrocephalus melanopogon			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A295	Acrocephalus schoenobaenus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A297	Acrocephalus scirpaceus			c				P	P	C	B	C	B
B	A168	Actitis hypoleucos			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A247	Alauda arvensis			w				P	P	C	C	C	C

B	A247	Alauda arvensis			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A229	Alcedo atthis			w				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A229	Alcedo atthis			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
P	4102	Anacamptis urvilleana			p				R	P	C	B	A	B
B	A054	Anas acuta			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A056	Anas clypeata			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A052	Anas crecca			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A053	Anas platyrhynchos			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A055	Anas querquedula			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A255	Anthus campestris			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A258	Anthus cervinus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A257	Anthus pratensis			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A257	Anthus pratensis			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A256	Anthus trivialis			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
F	1152	Aphanius fasciatus			p				P	P	A	B	A	C
B	A226	Apus apus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A228	Apus melba			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A227	Apus pallidus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A028	Ardea cinerea			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A029	Ardea purpurea			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A024	Ardeola ralloides			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A222	Asio flammeus			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A059	Aythya ferina			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A060	Aythya nyroca			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A021	Botaurus stellaris			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A243	Calandrella brachydactyla			r				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A243	Calandrella brachydactyla			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A149	Calidris alpina			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A145	Calidris minuta			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A146	Calidris temminckii			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A366	Carduelis cannabina			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A364	Carduelis carduelis			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A363	Carduelis chloris			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A365	Carduelis spinus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A371	Carpodacus erythrinus			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A288	Cettia cetti			c				P	P	C	B	C	B
B	A136	Charadrius dubius			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A081	Circus aeruginosus			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A289	Cisticola juncidis			c				P	P	C	B	C	B
B	A113	Coturnix coturnix			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A253	Delichon urbica			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A027	Egretta alba			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A026	Egretta garzetta			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
P	4092	Elatine gussonei			p				P	P	C	B	A	C
B	A381	Emberiza schoeniclus			w				P	P	B	C	C	C

B	A274	Phoenicurus phoenicurus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A315	Phylloscopus collybita			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A315	Phylloscopus collybita			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A314	Phylloscopus sibilatrix			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A316	Phylloscopus trochilus			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A140	Pluvialis apricaria			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A008	Podiceps nigricollis			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A120	Porzana parva			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A119	Porzana porzana			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A266	Prunella modularis			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A266	Prunella modularis			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A118	Rallus aquaticus			c				P	P	A	B	C	C
B	A318	Regulus ignicapillus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A318	Regulus ignicapillus			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A317	Regulus regulus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
M	1303	Rhinolophus hipposideros			p				P	DD	C	C	A	C
B	A249	Riparia riparia			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A275	Saxicola rubetra			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A276	Saxicola torquata			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A276	Saxicola torquata			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A155	Scolopax rusticola			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A361	Serinus serinus			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A209	Streptopelia decaocto			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A210	Streptopelia turtur			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A351	Sturnus vulgaris			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A311	Sylvia atricapilla			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A311	Sylvia atricapilla			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A310	Sylvia borin			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A304	Sylvia cantillans			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A309	Sylvia communis			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A305	Sylvia melanocephala			c				P	P	C	B	C	B
B	A166	Tringa glareola			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A164	Tringa nebularia			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A165	Tringa ochropus			c				P	P	B	C	C	C
B	A162	Tringa totanus			c				P	P	A	C	C	C
B	A285	Turdus philomelos			w				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A285	Turdus philomelos			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A284	Turdus pilaris			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
B	A232	Upupa epops			c				P	P	C	C	C	C
R	6095	Zamenis situla			p				P	P	C	C	A	C

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see [reference portal](#))

- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

3.3 Other important species of flora and fauna (optional)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

[Back to top](#)

4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N27	62.35
N23	10.45
N26	10.73
N08	5.16
N01	5.69
N09	5.5
N06	0.12
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

The wetland at Is-Simar was originally a freshwater wetland, and it was saline only close to the sea. About fifteen years ago it had been reduced to a small saline wetland through silting from surrounding agricultural land. During that time these areas were cleared with heavy machinery in an effort to restore back the original extent of the wetland. Nowadays, the wetland is brackish due to its close proximity to the sea and seawater seepage. A number of bird species that are typical of wetlands breed here on a regular basis.

4.2 Quality and importance

The wetland present in site and which has been artificially recreated by habitat engineering works is considered important as it provides an adequate habitat for the killifish, *Aphanius fasciatus* (Annex II, Habitats Directive) which is locally restricted to a few places and also threatened. It is to be noted, however, that *Aphanius fasciatus* never occurred naturally at Is-Simar and the population here was established from that at L-Għadira (another Natura 2000 site), itself a mixed population. In addition to the aforementioned engineering works, small areas bordering the wetland were planted with rare riparian species, mostly typical of the *Populion albae* community. In addition, the wetland area provides adequate habitat for a number of migratory bird species: especially rails, bitterns, moorhens and warblers that are associated with reeds. Is-Simar is one of the few places in the Maltese Islands where such migrating birds can stop to rest and feed. The garrigue present within the site actually represents a mosaic of labiate garrigue and rocky andropogonid grass steppe characterised by the plant species *Hyparrhenia hirta*, *Andropogon distachyus*, *Asphodelus aestivus*, *Thymbra capitata*, *Teucrium fruticans*, *Chiliadenus bocconeii* and *Asparagus aphyllus*. This steppe/garrigue habitat provides an important habitat for the reptiles *Podarcis filfolensis maltensis*, *Tarentola mauritanica*, *Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus*, *Chalcides ocellatus tiligugu*, *Telescopus fallax fallax*, *Coluber viridiflavus carbonarius* and *Elaphe situla* (Annex II, Habitats Directive). Rainwater rock pools are found in the steppe/garrigue area but these have not been studied yet. A variety of rare flora and fauna associated with such freshwater habitats are expected to be present, including *Elatine gussonei* (Annex II, Habitats Directive) and *Zannichellia melitensis*. The carob trees found in the area include some of the oldest carob trees found locally. Tree species that are not listed as Red Data Book species but are protected include *Cercis siliquastrum*, *Ceratonia siliqua*, *Rhamnus oleoides*, *Rhamnus alaternus*, *Phillyrea latifolia*, *Crataegus monogyna*, *Sambucus nigra*, *Pinus halepensis* and *Cupressus sempervirens*.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

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

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
M	K01.02		i
M	K01.03		i
H	H01		i
M	A07		b
M	I01		i
M	J02.05.02		i
M	A08		i

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

M	E03.03		i
M	J02		i
M	D01.02		b
M	K02.03		i
M	A01		i

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

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

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

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.4 Ownership (optional)

4.5 Documentation

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

[Back to top](#)

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

5.3 Site designation (optional)

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

[Back to top](#)

Organisation:	Environment and Resources Authority
Address:	
Email:	natura.2000@era.org.mt

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Name: Is-Simar Link: https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/Natura-2000-Management-Planning.aspx
<input type="checkbox"/> No, but in preparation	
<input type="checkbox"/> No	

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

7. MAP OF THE SITES

[Back to top](#)

INSPIRE ID:

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format (optional)

Yes No

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