



# 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 MT0000007

SITENAME Is-Salini

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## 1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

<b>1.1 Type</b> B	<b>1.2 Site code</b> MT0000007	<a href="#">Back to top</a>
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### 1.3 Site name

Is-Salini

<b>1.4 First Compilation date</b> 2004-04	<b>1.5 Update date</b> 2019-09
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### 1.6 Respondent:

<b>Name/Organisation:</b>	Environment and Resources Authority
<b>Address:</b>	Hexagon House, Spencer Hill, Marsa MRS 1441
<b>Email:</b>	natura2000@era.org.mt

### 1.7 Site indication and designation / classification dates

<b>Date site classified as SPA:</b>	0000-00
<b>National legal reference of SPA designation</b>	No data
<b>Date site proposed as SCI:</b>	2004-04
<b>Date site confirmed as SCI:</b>	2008-03
<b>Date site designated as SAC:</b>	2016-12
<b>National legal reference of SAC designation:</b>	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]:

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<b>Longitude</b> 14.4223	<b>Latitude</b> 35.947
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2.2 Area [ha]:

23.67

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

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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
1150B			2.66		G	B	A	B	B
1310B			0.52		G	B	A	B	B
1420B			0.16		G	B	C	C	C
5410B			1.4		G	B	C	B	B
92D0B			0.36		G	C	C	C	C

- **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.
F	1152	<a href="#">Aphanius fasciatus</a>			p				C	P	C	B	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

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### 4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N08	5.91
N03	2.2
N01	11.24
N21	18.29
N23	62.36
<b>Total Habitat Cover</b>	<b>100</b>

### Other Site Characteristics

This site is one of the last remaining salt marshes in the Maltese Islands. It supports a number of endemic flora and fauna, as well as a considerably large number of rare, endangered and/or locally threatened species. Is-Salini, following the dredging and reclamation of the Marsa marsh system in the 19th century, is the largest extant marshland in the Maltese Islands. In the past, it used to be more extensive but was reduced due to reclamation of the upper stream area of Burmarrad for health (malaria/Anopheles is now extinct from the Maltese Islands) and agricultural aspects. Other parts were later developed (Ta' Mattew area) or afforested and turned into a recreational area (Kennedy Grove). The latter has been planted by trees such as *Pinus halepensis*, *Olea europaea* and *Tamarix africana*. A canal runs on the left and to the right of the salt pans. This canal, known as Tas-Sokkorsu, provides freshwater to the marsh. *Limbarda crithmoides* (= *Inula crithmoides*), *Polypogon monspeliensis*, *Suaeda vera*, *Salsola soda* and *Phragmites australis* are common along the sides of the canal, which are mostly composed of wrack, mainly *Posidonia debris*. The inner parts of the canal are characterised by *Phragmites australis* and these are important in particular to reed-associating birds. The estuary of Is-Salini is very dynamic and dependent on the accretion and deposition caused by dead sea grass foliage, mostly *Posidonia oceanica*. *Cymodocea nodosa* is also present. Pockets of garrigue remnants, represented by *Thymra capitata*, *Erica multiflora* and *Teucrium fruticans*, are found on the border of the saltmarsh. In past years there was a freshwater spring in this area (known as Ta' Mattew). This no longer exists due to development.

### 4.2 Quality and importance

This area is characterised by a bay in which sea water intermixes with rain water originating from a complex of valley systems leading to Is-Salini. This forms an estuary with salt marsh and freshwater vegetation. The salt marsh is very species diverse and the species composition at Is-Salini is different from the other salt marshes in the Maltese Islands, since it is a mixture of freshwater elements and marsh species. In fact, it is often difficult to distinguish biotope type (hence, a combination of codes was used for the biotope map). Part of the site includes a garrigue community based on *Thymra capitata*, *Erica multiflora*, *Rhamnus oleoides*; and *Teucrium fruticans*. This area is however degraded due to encroaching development. *Arundo donax* and *Phragmites australis* reed beds are found growing along the banks of the Tas-Sokkorsu canal. Various important species, such as the very rare salt marsh bindweed *Calystegia sepium*, are also found growing in this area. Is-Salini also supports the very rare Borrer's salt marsh grass *Puccinellia fasciculata* and the Sea couch *Elytrigia flaccidifolia*. *Atriplex* sp. indet. is known only from this site. *Pisuara maderiana* on the other hand is known only in two localities - Is-Salini is one of them. It is worth mentioning that this is recorded only from Malta and Madeira. The salt pans and salt marsh area is an important ornithological site for migratory birds. It is also an important habitat for salt marsh and brackish water species. A considerable number of invertebrates, especially insects have been recorded from is-Salini. Most of these are typical of salt marsh areas and thus occur only at is-Salini. These include the earwig *Anisolabis maritima* (associated with brackish water), the Jumping spider *Neaetha membrosa*, the grasshopper *Heteracris adpersa* (also endangered), the Sand hopper *Gammarus aequicauda* and the Staphylinid beetle *Querdius simplicifrons*. A number of endemics are also recorded from this locality. These include the Trochoidea *spratti* (Maltese Top Snail) and *Muticaria macrostoma* which are endemic to the Maltese Islands and are locally protected; *Anthemis urvilleana* and *Chiliadenus bocconeii* which occur on the higher garigue area and *Allium lojaconoi* which is an endemic plant and is listed as being very rare in the Red Data Book. The site also housed a community of eel grasses namely *Zostera noltii* (= *Zostera nana*) and *Zostera marina*, both of which have not been reliably recorded since the last century.

### 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	G01.03		b
M	F04		i

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

L	A08		i
H	I01		i
M	G05.04		b
M	E01.01		b
H	K02.03		i
L	D01.02		o
L	J02.05		o
H	A07		b
M	E03.03		i
M	K01.02		i
L	K01.01		o
M	B01.02		o
M	G05.01		i
H	G01		b

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

Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification, T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

#### 4.4 Ownership (optional)

#### 4.5 Documentation

### 5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

#### 5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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#### 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:

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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-Salini Link: <a href="https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/Natura-2000-Management-Planning.aspx">https://era.org.mt/en/Pages/Natura-2000-Management-Planning.aspx</a>
<input type="checkbox"/> No, but in preparation	
<input type="checkbox"/> No	

#### 6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

### 7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:	MT.ERA.MT0000007
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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).

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