



## 2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

## 2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

MTZZ	Extra-Regio
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## 2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Marine (100.0

Mediterranean %)

## 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
1110 <b>B</b>			42.48		G	B	A	B	B
1120 <b>B</b>			171.74		G	A	B	A	A
1170 <b>B</b>			213.04		G	A	C	B	B
8330 <b>B</b>				28	G	B	B	B	B

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

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

Species					Population in the site						Site assessment			
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D. qual.	A B C D	A B C		
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
I	2578	<a href="#">Gibbula nivosa</a>	Yes		p	4400	4400	i	V	G	B	A	C	A

- **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
N01	100.0
<b>Total Habitat Cover</b>	<b>100</b>

### Other Site Characteristics

The seabed geomorphology in the site is considerably heterogeneous, giving rise to a number of varied seascapes and bottom types. Two rocky shoals extend several hundred meters seawards at the foot of Globigerina Limestone rock faces, ending in stepped drop-offs. Along the length of coast in the site, boulder aggregations can also be found, which form extensive submerged boulder fields. The site also includes plateaux, as well as gentle and steep submarine slopes, the latter at the foot of vertical cliffs.

### 4.2 Quality and importance

A rich and diverse biota can be found in the Rdum Majjiesa to Għar Lapsi marine area, complementing its geomorphological characteristics. The site hosts representatives of the main marine habitat types occurring in the Maltese Islands, with the associated biotic assemblages including species and ecosystems of conservation importance. Meadows of the seagrass *Posidonia oceanica* dominate large areas of the seabed within the 50 metre bathymetric region. These meadows are found in different ecomorphosis, on bedrock and on sand, where some areas produce thick mat walls allowing for colonisation by an array of photophilic algae. *Posidonia oceanica* meadows support a large variety of organisms of conservation interest, such as the bivalve *Pinna nobilis*, species of economic importance, such as *Octopus vulgaris*, as well as a number of demersal fish species. The seagrass *Cymodocea nodosa* is also very abundant in the northern part of the site, where its meadows are among the most extensive around the Maltese Islands. *C. nodosa* forms a major association with the biocoenosis of fine sands, but has also been recorded on Blue Clay and Globigerina bedrock covered by thin layers of silt. Phaeophytes cover a high percentage of the hard substrata in the site, with the most common species being *Cystoseira spinosa* var. *tenuior*, particularly in the shallower depths. At depths greater than 15 meters, associations of *Dictyopteris polypodioides*, *Cystoseira squarrosa* and *Sargassum vulgare* become more dominant. The macrofauna present in this zone are more abundant and diverse than the macroflora. Assemblages of sciaphilic algae are present on hard substrata at the mouth and entrance of caves, including chlorophytes such as *Cladophora prolifera* and *Flabellia petiolata*, and sciaphilic brown algae like *Halopteris filicina* and *Zonaria tourneforti*. This habitat is also inhabited by red algae, various species of sciaphilic sponges and crustacean species like the hermit crabs, slipper lobsters and crawfish. Species such as the anemone *Cerianthus membranacea*, the scleractinian *Madracis* sp.; the long-spined sea urchin *Centrostephanus longispinus* and the Mediterranean featherstar *Antedon mediterranea* and the scleractinian *Leptospammia pruvoti* can be found in this habitat type. Several species of bryozoans are common in the semi-dark parts of caves of the Maltese Islands. In Habitat 1170, an assemblage of infralittoral algae is present on the submerged portions of cliff faces, with photophilic algae dominating in shallower depths and progressively more sciaphilic ones in the darker regions at greater depths. Photophilic assemblages such as *Cystoseira* spp. and *Sargassum vulgare* are present in the upper well-lit region, whilst sciaphilic assemblages are dominated with species like *Flabellia petiolata* and *Halopteris* spp. Several faunal species, including sponges, cnidarians, polychaetes, molluscs, crustaceans and echinoderms are observed associated with the infralittoral algal assemblages. Note: This site was proposed as an SCI in 2006, confirmed as an SCI in 2008 and was then extended in 2018.

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

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

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
L	G02.10		b
L	M02.01		b
M	F02.01		b
L	A08		o
M	F02.03		b
L	M01.01		b
L	H03.03		i
L	K01.01		i
L	D03.02		o
L	G01		b
L	I01		b
L	A07		o

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

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

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

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

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

#### 4.4 Ownership (optional)

#### 4.5 Documentation

### 5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

### 7. MAP OF THE SITES

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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).