



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 MT0000103
SITENAME Żona fil-Baħar fl-Inħawi tad-Dwejra (Għawdex)

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

| | | |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1.1 Type B | 1.2 Site code MT0000103 | Back to top |
|----------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|

1.3 Site name

Żona fil-Baħar fl-Inħawi tad-Dwejra (Għawdex)

| | |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| 1.4 First Compilation date 2010-08 | 1.5 Update date 2019-09 |
|--|-----------------------------------|

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: | 0000-00 |
| National legal reference of SPA designation | No data |
| Date site proposed as SCI: | 2010-08 |
| Date site confirmed as SCI: | 2012-11 |
| Date site designated as SAC: | No data |
| National legal reference of SAC designation: | |

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude 14.1868 **Latitude** 36.0525

2.2 Area [ha]:

2.3 Marine area [%]

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2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code

Region Name

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

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Marine (100.0

Mediterranean %)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

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| 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 |
| 1120 B | | | 11.1 | | G | C | C | B | C |
| 1170 B | | | 26.13 | | G | B | C | B | B |
| 8330 B | | | | 11 | 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

3.3 Other important species of flora and fauna (optional)

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

4.1 General site character

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| Habitat class | % Cover |
|---------------------|---------|
| N01 | 100.0 |
| Total Habitat Cover | 100 |

Other Site Characteristics

A multitude of geomorphological features are present in this area, hence forming a complex seabed geomorphology. A series of drop-offs closely associated with rocky shoals and rocky platforms are found along the coast. At the base of cliffs and beneath drop-offs, extensive boulder fields are present. A number of arches, caves and tunnels are also found along the coast of the site.

4.2 Quality and importance

The Dwejra coastal area in Gozo is considered as an area of international scientific importance in view of a complex of features of interest known from here, including geological, geomorphological, ecological, archaeological, historical and aesthetic aspects. Considering Posidonia meadows, there is an extensive, though non-continuous, bed within the area of 'Il-Bajja tad-Dwejra' (Dwejra Bay) where the seagrass strands are dense and healthy. Small patches of the seagrass also occur on bedrock in other parts of the area. The Posidonia oceanica meadows within this site are considered to be isolated since there is little or no continuity with meadows present in other coastal areas due to the

prevailing deep water off most of the eastern coast of Gozo (Posidonia does not grow in deep waters). A baseline survey on the extent and character of Posidonia oceanica (L.) Delile Meadows in the territorial waters of Malta was carried out in 2002. Following examination of various parameters during this Posidonia Baseline Survey, the meadow and the general environmental conditions have been classified as normal within this site. The classification used was based on Pergent et. al (1995). This data provided a good indication of the distribution of Posidonia meadows, however, quantitative inaccuracies were acknowledged through the MSFD Initial Assessment in 2013. Marine invertebrates associated with the Posidonia oceanica meadows include numerous species of molluscs, polychaetes, crustaceans and echinoderms that seek refuge in the leaf canopy and root-rhizome layers, hence being quite inconspicuous. Additionally, several species of sponges, corals, sea urchins, sea stars, crabs and anemones occur within this site. Of particular note is the existence of small populations of Pinna nobilis, Centrostephanus longispinus and Scyllarides latus, and Epinephelus marginatus which is frequently encountered by divers. Rocky reefs are present throughout the area and may either be reefs that rise vertically from a sandy bottom littered with large boulders to join submarine bedrock platforms or submarine continuations of emergent cliffs. Associations with Flabellia petiolata and Peyssonnelia squamaria cover most reef areas. A total of five fully submerged caves and six semi-submerged caves are present in the area. Several of these caves support very diverse assemblages characteristic of semi-obscure caves, that is those with dim light conditions but not complete darkness. The macrofaunal component of this assemblage type consists of a large number of bryozoans, sponges and serpulid polychaetes. The submerged caves mostly located in the northern half of the site have a very complex physiognomy and a bottom characterised by fine sediment. The largest of these appear to be two caves lying below the shore of Il-Ħofra ta' Birwin and Iż-Żerqa area. The emergent caves, which are distributed throughout the area, also have a very complex physiognomy, both underwater and above sea-level. The bottom inside the emergent caves consists of bedrock, with small boulders, cobbles and pebbles present in some places.

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 | F02.01 | | b |
| L | H03.03 | | b |
| L | M02.01 | | b |
| M | F02.03 | | b |
| L | K01.01 | | i |
| L | M01.01 | | b |
| M | G01 | | i |
| L | I01 | | b |

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

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

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

i = inside, o = outside, b = both

4.4 Ownership (optional)

4.5 Documentation

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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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 type="checkbox"/> |

No, but in preparation

No

6.3 Conservation measures (optional)

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

MT.ERA.MT0000103

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).