



Ramsar Information Sheet

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Update version, previously published on : 1 January 1991

Malta L-Għadira



Designation date	30 September 1988
Site number	410
Coordinates	35°58'12"N 14°20'44"E
Area	97,75 ha

Color codes

Fields back-shaded in light blue relate to data and information required only for RIS updates.

Note that some fields concerning aspects of Part 3, the Ecological Character Description of the RIS (tinted in purple), are not expected to be completed as part of a standard RIS, but are included for completeness so as to provide the requested consistency between the RIS and the format of a 'full' Ecological Character Description, as adopted in Resolution X.15 (2008). If a Contracting Party does have information available that is relevant to these fields (for example from a national format Ecological Character Description) it may, if it wishes to, include information in these additional fields.

1 - Summary

Summary

L-Ghadira is a coastal wetland, consisting of a small salt marsh, a brackish water pool (locally rare habitat) with fluctuating salinity and adjacent sand dunes, garrigue/phrygana, steppe and agricultural land. The brackish water pool is an adequate habitat for the endemic killifish (*Aphanius fasciatus*) which is locally restricted to a few places and is threatened. Typical Mediterranean salt marsh vegetation is present with communities incorporating the sand dunes and rare, endangered (and endemic) fauna and flora. Furthermore, the adjacent garrigue areas consist of endemic flora, namely the Maltese Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis urvilleana*) and the Maltese Spider Orchid (*Ophrys melitensis*). The area is an attraction to avifauna, especially water birds, some of which actually nest in the area while others rest on their migration or wintering (as globally threatened *Aythya farina*).

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency

Postal address

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency

Postal address

2.1.2 - Period of collection of data and information used to compile the RIS

From year

To year

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)

2.1.4 - Changes to the boundaries and area of the Site since its designation or earlier update

(Update) A. Changes to Site boundary Yes No

(Update) The boundary has been delineated more accurately

(Update) The boundary has been extended

(Update) The boundary has been restricted

(Update) B. Changes to Site area the area has decreased

(Update) The Site area has been calculated more accurately

(Update) The Site has been delineated more accurately

(Update) The Site area has increased because of a boundary extension

(Update) The Site area has decreased because of a boundary restriction

(Update) For secretariat only. This update is an extension

2.1.5 - Changes to the ecological character of the Site

(Update) 6b i. Has the ecological character of the Ramsar Site (including applicable Criteria) changed since the previous RIS?

2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps

Boundaries description

L-Ghadira is found within the Mellieħa locality boundary, at 35.9719N / 14.3461E. To the north of the site is the Marfa Ridge whilst to the south is the Mellieħa Ridge. The site incorporates a large part of the Mellieħa Valley and a small part of the Marfa Ridge. The western part of the site adjoins the Rđumijiet ta' Malta: Ir-Ramla taċ-Ċirkewwa sar-Ramla tal-Mixquqa area. The seaward area to the east of the site, borders Il-Grigal ta' Malta Marine Protected Area. The Ramsar Site boundary aligns exactly with the Natura 2000 site L-Inħawi tal-Ghadira (MT0000015).

2.2.2 - General location

a) In which large administrative region does the site lie?

b) What is the nearest town or population centre?

2.2.3 - For wetlands on national boundaries only

a) Does the wetland extend onto the territory of one or more other countries? Yes No

b) Is the site adjacent to another designated Ramsar Site on the territory of another Contracting Party? Yes No

2.2.4 - Area of the Site

Official area, in hectares (ha):

Area, in hectares (ha) as calculated from GIS boundaries

2.2.5 - Biogeography

Biogeographic regions

Regionalisation scheme(s)	Biogeographic region
EU biogeographic regionalization	Mediterranean

3 - Why is the Site important?

3.1 - Ramsar Criteria and their justification

Criterion 1: Representative, rare or unique natural or near-natural wetland types

Hydrological services provided	Maintenance of hydrological regimes through flood control. L-Ghadira is a coastal wetland within a Mediterranean biogeographical regime. The saline marshland was subject to restoration works in the 1980s and consists of various pools and coastal lagoons retaining the seasonal precipitation waters throughout the year, becoming increasingly saline in summer.
Other ecosystem services provided	Area serves as a resting/feeding area for many migratory bird species and a few species also use the area as a nesting site. The area also serves as a habitat for few endemics such as the Maltese wall lizard (<i>Podarcis filfolensis</i>).
Other reasons	Saline marshland habitats are rare habitats overall in the Maltese Islands, with L-Ghadira being one of the few places where such habitats are found. They are consequently important for species that associate with such habitats, many of which (species) are overall rare in the Maltese Islands, even if abundant at L-Ghadira.

Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further information	L-Ghadira hosts and supports a number of species which are threatened at both national and international level. One particular species is the Sand Cricket (<i>Brachytrupes megacephalus</i>), an ammiophilous species that favours arid sandy environments. A high proportion of this species can be found in the sand dune system adjoining the mentioned wetland. The wetland sustains a very good population of Mediterranean killifish (<i>Aphanius fasciatus</i>), a rare species locally also designated as the National Fish of Malta. Furthermore, L-Ghadira acts as a nesting and breeding site for a number of protected species and provides an adequate feeding and resting area for a number of migratory bird species, which include threatened species in Europe, such as the Common Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>), the Common Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>), the Curlew Sandpiper (<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>), the European Turtle-dove (<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>) and the Northern Lapwing (<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>).
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Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification	L-Ghadira hosts a range of habitat types, such as coastal lagoons and sand dunes, which are locally rare. The aforementioned coastal lagoons support the best population of a Mediterranean killifish (<i>Aphanius fasciatus</i>) within the Maltese Islands, which although relatively abundant in this site, is otherwise considered as rare at a national level in view of its dependence on the mentioned locally rare habitats. On the other hand, the sand dunes at L-Ghadira host a stable population of the Sand Cricket (<i>Brachytrupes megacephalus</i>). Similarly, this sand dune system is also important for a number of various other sand-associated invertebrates that are restricted to sand dune habitats; as well as for rare flora, such as <i>Elytrigia juncea</i> and <i>Euphorbia terracina</i> , the latter having a restricted distribution in the Mediterranean. This site also acts as a nesting and breeding site for a number of protected species, such as the Cetti's Warbler (<i>Cettia cetti</i>), Zitting Cisticola (<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>), Sardinian Warbler (<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>), the Spanish Sparrow (<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>), the Little Ringed Plover (<i>Charadrius dubius</i>) and the Common Moorhen (<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>).
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Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

Optional text box to provide further information

L-Ghadira serves as breeding ground for a variety of bird species, as well as an important feeding and resting area for migratory birds. The Black-winged Stilt (*Himantopus himantopus*) is establishing a breeding population within the lagoon of L-Ghadira, with 3 successful nesting pairs in 2013. Other breeding birds at the reserve include the Little Ringed Plover (*Charadrius dubius*) and the Common Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), and the passerines the Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*), the Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*) and Cetti's Warbler (*Cettia cetti*). The Short-toed Lark (*Calandrella brachydactyla*) has a breeding population of 3-5 pairs at the garrigue patch situated in the western end of the site. The reserve is also an important stopover in both spring and autumn migration periods. Over 100 migratory bird species have been recorded at L-Ghadira Wetland Reserve and flocks of herons and egrets can exceed fifty birds at any one time. Passerines also winter within the reserve.

3.2 - Plant species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Criterion 2	Criterion 3	Criterion 4	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	Other status	Justification
Plantae								
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nationally Endemic; Annex II & IV species of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)	In this context, <i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i> represents the Maltese: <i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i> subsp. <i>urvilleana</i> , which is endemic to the Maltese Islands.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Anthyllis hermanniae</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Nationally Endemic	In this context, <i>Anthyllis hermanniae</i> represents the subspecies: <i>Anthyllis hermanniae</i> subsp. <i>melitensis</i> , which is endemic to the Maltese Islands.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Carex extensa</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN - National Red List	Species is listed in Red Data Book as Endangered in the Maltese Islands.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Euphorbia melitensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Nationally Endemic	<i>Euphorbia melitensis</i> is endemic to the Maltese Islands.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Euphorbia terracina</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Appendix II of CITES	Species is listed in Red Data Book as Vulnerable in the Maltese Islands.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Hedysarum spinosissimum</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List	Species is listed in Red Data Book as Vulnerable in the Maltese Islands.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Limonium melitense</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Nationally Endemic	<i>Limonium melitense</i> is endemic to the Maltese Islands.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Ophrys flavicans</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nationally Endemic; Annex II & IV species of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)	<i>Ophrys flavicans</i> does not occur in the Maltese Islands. This entry should read as <i>Ophrys melitensis</i> , which is endemic to the Maltese Islands.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Ruppia drepanensis</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	EN - National Red List	Species is listed in Red Data Book as Endangered in the Maltese Islands.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Salsola melitensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Nationally Endemic	<i>Salsola melitensis</i> is endemic to the Maltese Islands.

3.3 - Animal species whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence ¹⁾	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
Others																	
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Allophylax picipes</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nationally Endemic	This entry refers to <i>Allophylax picipes melitensis</i> , which is endemic to the Maltese Islands.
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Ateuchetus semipunctatus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Species is listed as VU at IUCN level.
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Brachytrypus megagephalus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Annex II & IV species of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)	Species listed as vulnerable at IUCN level; and also within the Maltese Islands. Site is one of rare in Malta that is habitat of the species.
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	<i>Chalcides ocellatus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Annex IV species of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive); Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable. Site is one of its habitats.
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	<i>Chamaeleo chamaeleon</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Appendix II of CITES; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable. Site is one of its habitats.
CHORDATA/ AMPHIBIA	<i>Discoglossus pictus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Annex IV species of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive); Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable. Site is one of its habitats.
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Erodium siculus melitensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nationally Endemic	<i>Erodium siculus melitensis</i> is endemic to the Maltese Islands.
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	<i>Hemidactylus turcicus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable. Site is one of its habitats.
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	<i>Hemorrhois algirus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable. Site is one of its habitats.
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	<i>Hierophis viridiflavus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Annex IV species of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive); Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable. Site is one of its habitats.
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Myotis punicus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				DD	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Annex II & IV species of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable. Site is used as a foraging site (roosting at locality close by).
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Pimelia rugulosa</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nationally Endemic	This entry refers to <i>Pimelia rugulosa melitana</i> , which is endemic to the Maltese Islands.
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Annex IV species of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable.
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Plecotus austriacus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Annex IV species of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable.
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	<i>Podarcis filfolensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nationally Endemic; Annex IV species of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive); Appendix II of Bern Convention	<i>Podarcis filfolensis</i> is endemic to the Maltese Islands
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Prionyx viduatus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List	Species listed as vulnerable in Red Data Book. Site a habitat for this species in Malta.
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Annex II & IV species of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable. Roosts have not been recorded for this species within this site, although it is considered to be a resident in the area. The range within the site is therefore indeterminate.

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Smicromyrme rufipes</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List	Species listed as vulnerable and endemic in Red Data Book. Site a habitat for this species in Malta.
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Stenosis melitana</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nationally Endemic	<i>Stenosis melitana</i> is endemic to the Maltese Islands.
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Stenosis schembrii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nationally Endemic	<i>Stenosis schembrii</i> is endemic to the Maltese Islands.
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Suncus etruscus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable. Site is one of its habitats.
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	<i>Tarentola mauritanica</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable. Site is one of its habitats.
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	<i>Telescopus fallax</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Annex IV species of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive); Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable. Site is one of its habitats.
ARTHROPODA/ INSECTA	<i>Tethina melitensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nationally Endemic	<i>Tethina melitensis</i> is endemic to the Maltese Islands.
CHORDATA/ REPTILIA	<i>Zamenis situla</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Annex II & IV species of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive); Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable. Site is one of its habitats.
Fish, Mollusc and Crustacea																	
CHORDATA/ ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Aphanius fasciatus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Annex II species of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive); Appendix II & III of Bern Convention	Species listed as vulnerable in Red Data Book. Site is one of the remaining habitats in Malta.
Birds																	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Alcedo atthis</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed as VU at IUCN level; Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anas acuta</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II & III species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anas clypeata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II & III species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anas crecca</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II & III species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anas platyrhynchos</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II & III species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory, wintering and breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anas querquedula</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Anthus campestris</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC; Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Apus apus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Apus pallidus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is of a breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Ardea purpurea</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Ardeola ralloides</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Aythya ferina</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II & III species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is listed as VU at IUCN level; Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Aythya nyroca</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Appendix I of CMS; Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Calandrella brachydactyla</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Calidris canutus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Annex II of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Appendix I of CMS
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Calidris ferruginea</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed as VU at IUCN level
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Caprimulgus europaeus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Cettia cetti</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Charadrius dubius</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appendix II of CMS; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is of a breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Chloris chloris</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN - National Red List; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as endangered.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Circus aeruginosus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Circus pygargus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Cisticola juncidis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Coturnix coturnix</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Egretta garzetta</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory and breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Emberiza calandra</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable.

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Falco naumanni</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Appendix I of CMS; Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Falco tinnunculus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appendix II of CMS; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as endangered.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Falco vespertinus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Appendix I of CMS; Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Ficedula albicollis</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Fringilla coelebs</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Fulica atra</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II & III species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Gallinago gallinago</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II & III species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Gallinula chloropus</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive)	Species is of a breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Himantopus himantopus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory and breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is of a breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Ichthyaeetus melanocephalus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>					<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Ixobrychus minutus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Lanius senator</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN - National Red List; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as endangered.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Larus cachinnans</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Annex II species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Linaria cannabina</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN - National Red List; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as endangered.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Lymnocyptes minimus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II & III species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Milvus migrans</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Muscicapa striata</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Nycticorax nycticorax</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.

Phylum	Scientific name	Species qualifies under criterion				Species contributes under criterion				Pop. Size	Period of pop. Est.	% occurrence 1)	IUCN Red List	CITES Appendix I	CMS Appendix I	Other Status	Justification
		2	4	6	9	3	5	7	8								
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Pandion haliaetus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Passer montanus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Pernis apivorus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Pluvialis apricaria</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Rallus aquaticus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Scolopax rusticola</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II & III species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Serinus serinus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN - National Red List; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as endangered.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Streptopelia decaocto</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix III of Bern Convention	Annex II species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix III of Bern Convention Species is of a breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				VU	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species listed as VU at IUCN level; Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Sturnus vulgaris</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive)	Species is of a migratory, wintering and breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Sylvia conspicillata</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	EN - National Red List; Appendix II of CMS; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as endangered
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Sylvia melanocephala</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appendix II of CMS; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is of a breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tachybaptus ruficollis</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory, wintering and breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa glareola</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex I species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Turdus merula</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Turdus philomelos</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Vanellus vanellus</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>				NT	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Annex II species of the Directive 2009/147/EC (Birds Directive); Appendix II of CMS; Appendix III of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

Previous records of *Plecotus* species in Malta have been attributed to *Plecotus austriacus*. However, recent studies showed that the *Plecotus* species present in Malta is *Plecotus gaisleri* (Gaisler's long-eared bat).

3.4 - Ecological communities whose presence relates to the international importance of the site

Name of ecological community	Community qualifies under Criterion 2?	Description	Justification
Salicornia and other annuals colonizing mud and sand	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Formations composed mostly or predominantly of annuals, in particular Chenopodiaceae of the genus <i>Salicornia</i> or grasses, colonising periodically inundated muds and sands of marine or interior salt marshes.	Listed as Habitat 1310 under Annex I of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)
Mediterranean salt meadows (<i>Juncetalia maritimi</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Mediterranean salt meadow communities, consisting mainly of <i>Juncetalia maritimi</i> .	Listed as Habitat 1410 under Annex I of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)
Mediterranean and thermo-Atlantic halophilous scrubs (<i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i>)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Perennial vegetation of marine saline muds (schorre) mainly composed of scrubs and belonging to the <i>Sarcocornetea fruticosi</i> class.	Listed as Habitat 1420 under Annex I of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)
Dunes with <i>Euphorbia terracina</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Coastal dune grassland communities with <i>Euphorbia terracina</i>	Listed as Habitat 2220 under Annex I of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)
Thermo-Mediterranean and pre-desert scrub	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Scrub formations characteristic of the thermo-Mediterranean zone.	Listed as Habitat 5330 under Annex I of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)
West Mediterranean cliff-top phryganas	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rare, extremely local and isolated, cushion-forming thermo-Mediterranean sclerophyllous associations of cliff-tops.	Listed as Habitat 5410 under Annex I of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)
Pseudo-steppe with grasses and annuals of the Thero-Brachypodietea	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Meso- and thermo-Mediterranean xerophile, mostly open, short-grass annual grasslands rich in therophytes, including therophyte communities of oligotrophic soils on base-rich, calcareous substrates.	Listed as Habitat 6220 under Annex I of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)
Coastal lagoons	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lagoons are expanses of shallow coastal salt water, of varying salinity and water volume, wholly or partially separated from the sea by sand banks or shingle, or, less frequently, by rocks.	Listed as Habitat 1150 under Annex I of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)

4 - What is the Site like? (Ecological character description)

4.1 - Ecological character

L-Ghadira is small salt marsh with brackish water pools with fluctuating salinity surrounded by sand dunes, garrigue/phrygana, steppe and agricultural land. The major change occurring in the site include decrease in water depth, increase in aquatic temperature, increase in habitat salinity, and decrease in oxygen concentration, amongst others. One of the species directly affected by these changes is *Aphanius fasciatus*. This fish is extremely important to the food web within the Wetland site since a wide range of shoreline birds feed exclusively on it. Site has a major role in flood control, whilst also providing habitats for rare flora and fauna, as well as a feeding/resting area for many migratory birds. Certain bird species, such as the globally endangered *Aythya ferina*, occasionally also use the area as a wintering site.

4.2 - What wetland type(s) are in the site?

Marine or coastal wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
E: Sand, shingle or pebble shores	L-gharam tar-ramel (sing. L-gharma tar-ramel)	3	1.13	Rare
H: Intertidal marshes	Bwar salmastru (sing. Bur salmastru)	4	0.62	Rare
J: Coastal brackish / saline lagoons	Bwar salmastru (sing. Bur salmastru)	1	3.78	Rare

Inland wetlands

Wetland types (code and name)	Local name	Ranking of extent (1: greatest - 4: least)	Area (ha) of wetland type	Justification of Criterion 1
Fresh water > Marshes on inorganic soils >> W: Shrub-dominated wetlands	Bwar salmastru (sing. Bur salmastru)	2	1.99	Rare

Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
Scrubs	5.69
Phrygas	5.45
Other lands	78.32
Pseudo-steppen	0.77

(ECD) Habitat connectivity

L-Ghadira is made up of interconnected pools surrounded by soil banks with vegetation. This complex is enclosed within ditches and earth embankments and surrounded by fencing.

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTALILIOPSIDA	<i>Brachypodium retusum</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTALILIOPSIDA	<i>Drimia pancration</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTAMAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Euphorbia chamaesyce</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTALILIOPSIDA	<i>Himantoglossum robertianum</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTALILIOPSIDA	<i>Juncus acutus</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTALILIOPSIDA	<i>Juncus subulatus</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTAMAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Melilotus messanensis</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTAMAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Periploca laevigata</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTAMAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Tamarix africana</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTALILIOPSIDA	<i>Thinopyrum junceum</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTALILIOPSIDA	<i>Triglochin bulbosum bulbosum</i>	

Invasive alien plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Acacia saligna</i>	Actual (minor impacts)	No change
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Agave americana</i>	Actual (minor impacts)	No change
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Actual (minor impacts)	No change
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Potential	No change
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Opuntia ficus-indica</i>	Actual (minor impacts)	No change

4.3.2 - Animal species

Other noteworthy animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Acrocephalus arundinaceus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anthus spinoletta</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Apus melba</i>				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Atelerix algirus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Buteo buteo</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Calidris alba</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Calidris alpina</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Calidris minuta</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Calidris temminckii</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Charadrius alexandrinus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Charadrius hiaticula</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Chlidonias leucopterus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Chroicocephalus genei</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				
MOLLUSCA/GASTROPODA	<i>Cochlicella conoidea</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Cuculus canorus</i>				
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	<i>Dasyfabris maura</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>				
MOLLUSCA/GASTROPODA	<i>Ecrobia ventrosa</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	<i>Exochus mitratus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Ficedula parva</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Hydroprogne caspia</i>				

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Lanius collurio</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Larus fuscus</i>				
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	<i>Leptochilus medanae</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Luscinia megarhynchos</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Luscinia svecica</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Merops apiaster</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Motacilla alba</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Motacilla cinerea</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Motacilla flava</i>				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Mustela nivalis</i>				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Oenanthe isabellina</i>				
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	<i>Otiornychus schembrii</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phoenicopterus ruber</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phylloscopus bonelli</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix sibilatrix</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phylloscopus trochiloides</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Pipistrellus kuhlii</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Plegadis falcinellus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Podiceps cristatus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Porzana porzana</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Prunella modularis</i>				
ARTHROPODA/INSECTA	<i>Pseudepipona tripunctata</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Regulus regulus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Riparia riparia</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Saxicola rubetra</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Saxicola torquata torquata</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Setophaga striata</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Spinus spinus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Sylvia borin</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Sylvia cantillans</i>				

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Sylvia communis</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa erythropus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa nebularia</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa ochropus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa stagnatilis</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Tringa totanus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i>				

Invasive alien animal species

Phylum	Scientific name	Impacts	Changes at RIS update
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Rattus norvegicus</i>	Actual (minor impacts)	No change

4.4 - Physical components

4.4.1 - Climate

Climatic region	Subregion
C: Moist Mid-Latitude climate with mild winters	Csa: Mediterranean (Mild with dry, hot summer)

4.4.2 - Geomorphic setting

a) Minimum elevation above sea level (in metres)

a) Maximum elevation above sea level (in metres)

- Entire river basin
- Upper part of river basin
- Middle part of river basin
- Lower part of river basin
- More than one river basin
- Not in river basin
- Coastal

Please name the river basin or basins. If the site lies in a sub-basin, please also name the larger river basin. For a coastal/marine site, please name the sea or ocean.

Mediterranean sea.

4.4.3 - Soil

Mineral

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

No available information

Are soil types subject to change as a result of changing hydrological conditions (e.g., increased salinity or acidification)? Yes No

Please provide further information on the soil (optional)

A national soil survey carried out between 2002 and 2004 around the Maltese Islands as part of the MALSIS 1 project indicated that soils in the area consist of Calcisols, Regosols, Leptosols and Luvisols (Sultana, D. (personal communication, 2021)).

4.4.4 - Water regime

Water permanence

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Usually permanent water present	

Source of water that maintains character of the site

Presence?	Predominant water source	Changes at RIS update
Water inputs from precipitation	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change
Water inputs from surface water	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Marine water	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Water destination

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Marine	No change

Stability of water regime

Presence?	Changes at RIS update
Water levels fluctuating (including tidal)	No change

Please add any comments on the water regime and its determinants (if relevant). Use this box to explain sites with complex hydrology:

As indicated previously, I-Ghadira has been restored and engineered over the past few years in such a way that nowadays, it consists of two main interconnected central pools surrounded by saline marshland and other non-wetland habitats, including riparian vegetation and a remnant sand dune. Some of the engineering works in led to the formation of permanent pools with fluctuating water levels that affect the biota of the marsh. The area retains rainwater in the central pools all year round, which may also evaporate in very dry and hot seasons.

(ECD) Connectivity of surface waters and of groundwater

According to a study carried out in 2014, it is unlikely that there is a connectivity between the surface water and groundwater at I-Ghadira.

4.4.5 - Sediment regime

Significant accretion or deposition of sediments occurs on the site

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Sediment regime unknown

Please provide further information on sediment (optional):

The area is characterised by relatively flat topography (0 to 5meters) and is therefore subject to low sediment erosion rates (<1 t Ha-1 yr-1). However, the Maltese north-western areas are characterised by a large range in erosion rates, ranging from 5 to >75t Ha-1 yr-1. The valley sides and plateau flanks within this area typically demonstrate high erosion rates, characterised by high topographic gradients, inappropriate cultivation practices and poor erosion control measures (Sultana, 2015). Sediment accumulates in the pools, which is mainly imparting from a siltation process as a result of waters leaching from the agricultural land at the back of the wetland. The substrate of the water body is characterised by a mixture of sand and clay characteristics of Valley fill and coastal setting.

(ECD) Water turbidity and colour

Studies held between January and June 2020 showed that water turbidity varied between 9.25 NTU and 44.4 NTU.

(ECD) Light - reaching wetland

Natural light during the day. Artificial light from adjacent coast road during the night.

(ECD) Water temperature

Studies held between January and June 2020 showed that the water temperature varied between 15.43°C and 25°C.

4.4.6 - Water pH

Alkaline (pH>7.4)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Unknown

Please provide further information on pH (optional):

Studies held between January and June 2020 showed that the pH of the water at I-Ghadira varied between 7.93 and 8.41.

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Hyperhaline/Hypersaline (>40 g/l)

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Unknown

Please provide further information on salinity (optional):

Studies held between January and June 2020 showed that the salinity of the water at I-Ghadira varied between 53.3ppt (≈53 g/l) and 85.96ppt (≈86 g/l).

(ECD) Dissolved gases in water

Studies held between January and June 2020 showed that the level of dissolved oxygen gas within the water at I-Ghadira varied between 65.35% and 88.95%.

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Dystrophic

(Update) Changes at RIS update No change Increase Decrease Unknown

Unknown

Please provide further information on dissolved or suspended nutrients (optional):

Studies held between January and June 2020 show that concentrations of nitrates and phosphates at I-Ghadira are very low, with readings of 0.002 µg-at N/L and 0.001 µg-at P/L respectively. Despite the wide use of the trophic state index (TRIX) over different environments, it is not considered sufficient to inland surface and transitional waters in Malta. The determination of chlorophyll a & TRIX index are not adequate proxy of eutrophication status in transitional waters because primary production in these systems is not normally dominated by phytoplankton (except in deep estuaries) but it is carried out by angiosperms and macroalgae. An assessment of eutrophication potential was carried out using only nitrate concentrations and applying the French (Seq-eaux) categories for inland surface waters and transitional water bodies. According to this method I-Ghadira is classified as Ultra-oligotrophic. This classification may be considered 'dystrophic' in the above-mentioned classification.

(ECD) Water conductivity Studies held between January & June 2020 showed that water conductivity at I-Ghadira varied between 76,883 & 115,00µS/cm

4.4.9 - Features of the surrounding area which may affect the Site

Please describe whether, and if so how, the landscape and ecological characteristics in the area surrounding the Ramsar Site differ from the i) broadly similar ii) significantly different site itself.

4.5 - Ecosystem services

4.5.1 - Ecosystem services/benefits

Provisioning Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Food for humans	Sustenance for humans (e.g., fish, molluscs, grains)	Medium

Regulating Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Maintenance of hydrological regimes	Groundwater recharge and discharge	High
Erosion protection	Soil, sediment and nutrient retention	High
Biological control of pests and disease	Support of predators of agricultural pests (e.g., birds feeding on locusts)	Medium
Hazard reduction	Flood control, flood storage	High

Cultural Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Recreation and tourism	Picnics, outings, touring	High
Recreation and tourism	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	High
Spiritual and inspirational	Aesthetic and sense of place values	Medium
Scientific and educational	Educational activities and opportunities	Medium
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	High
Scientific and educational	Major scientific study site	High

Supporting Services

Ecosystem service	Examples	Importance/Extent/Significance
Biodiversity	Supports a variety of all life forms including plants, animals and microorganisms, the genes they contain, and the ecosystems of which they form a part	High
Soil formation	Accumulation of organic matter	High
Nutrient cycling	Storage, recycling, processing and acquisition of nutrients	High

Have studies or assessments been made of the economic valuation of ecosystem services provided by this Ramsar Site? Yes No Unknown

4.5.2 - Social and cultural values

i) the site provides a model of wetland wise use, demonstrating the application of traditional knowledge and methods of management and use that maintain the ecological character of the wetland

Description if applicable

L-Ghadira is used for educational awareness for school children and the general public. It is also used for recreational/scientific activities such as bird watching and photography.

ii) the site has exceptional cultural traditions or records of former civilizations that have influenced the ecological character of the wetland

Description if applicable

Very ancient cart-ruts in limestone are present at Il-Bisqra, located behind L-Ghadira; cart ruts are dated to the Bronze Age period by archaeologists and seem to be an ancient communication network across different parts of the Maltese Islands. Furthermore, there are a number of archaeological sites surrounding the area. To the east, there are the remains of a second century wreck that was excavated by Honor Frost in the 1967. To the north east of the site, there is a complex of caves, known as Għar Baqrat. To the south, there is another complex of caves known as Is-Sellum, where pottery shards dating to the Roman period were identified. To the south west, there are another two troglodyte clusters, one at Il-Wied ta' Għnien Ingraw and the other at il-Wied ta' San Niklaw. Several authors referred to the Għnien Ingraw complex as Calypso's cave. In the Wied of San Niklaw, a small complex of rock cut-tombs have been identified whilst one of the caves houses the remnants of a Medieval frescoe. Alongside the valley, pottery shards dating from prehistoric to the Roman period have also been found. To the north west of the site, there are other trogloditic dwellings and a rock-cut tomb. Classical pottery shards were also identified. Rubble walls are also found extensively throughout the site. Whilst there is no direct evidence, these troglodyte clusters may indicate that the Saline Vecchie (old salt pans) could have been used in ancient times.

iii) the ecological character of the wetland depends on its interaction with local communities or indigenous peoples

iv) relevant non-material values such as sacred sites are present and their existence is strongly linked with the maintenance of the ecological character of the wetland

4.6 - Ecological processes

(ECD) Animal reproductive productivity	L-Ghadira is an important breeding place for various avifauna. Furthermore, the place is an important breeding ground for the Mediterranean Killifish (<i>Aphanius fasciatus</i>).
(ECD) Notable aspects concerning animal and plant dispersal	Malta's position on migratory route of many birds gives possibility for seed dispersal of plants.
(ECD) Notable aspects concerning migration	Malta lies within the Mediterranean/Black Sea flyway, which is one of three Palaearctic-African flyways connecting Europe with North Africa, which collectively constitute the largest bird migration system in the world.
(ECD) Pressures and trends concerning any of the above, and/or concerning ecosystem integrity	The site is fenced and under active management, through a Management Agreement between ERA, BLM & MECP in accordance to Maltese law. More information is also available at: https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/20190923_MT0000015-Ghadira-SAC_SPA-3 .

5 - How is the Site managed? (Conservation and management)

5.1 - Land tenure and responsibilities (Managers)

5.1.1 - Land tenure/ownership

Public ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
National/Federal government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Private ownership

Category	Within the Ramsar Site	In the surrounding area
Other types of private/individual owner(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Provide further information on the land tenure / ownership regime (optional):

L-Inħawi tal-Ghadira is practically all government property. There are only a few pockets that are privately-owned.

5.1.2 - Management authority

Please list the local office / offices of any agency or organization responsible for managing the site:

The site is managed by non-governmental organisation on behalf of the Environment & Resources Authority (ERA), the competent authority responsible for the site. Such contract is a Management Agreement between ERA and Birdlife Malta (BLM), established through the vires of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (SL 549.44).

Provide the name and/or title of the person or people with responsibility for the wetland:

Mr Stephen Saliba, Team Manager, Biodiversity and Water Unit

Postal address:

Environment and Resources Authority
Hexagon House
Spencer Hill
Marsa, MRS 1441

E-mail address:

ramsar.malta@era.org.mt

5.2 - Ecological character threats and responses (Management)

5.2.1 - Factors (actual or likely) adversely affecting the Site's ecological character

Water regulation

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Water abstraction	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Agriculture and aquaculture

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Annual and perennial non-timber crops	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Transportation and service corridors

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Roads and railroads	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Human intrusions and disturbance

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Recreational and tourism activities	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Natural system modifications

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Dams and water management/use	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Invasive and other problematic species and genes

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Invasive non-native/ alien species	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Pollution

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Excess heat, sound, light	Medium impact	Medium impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change

Climate change and severe weather

Factors adversely affecting site	Actual threat	Potential threat	Within the site	Changes	In the surrounding area	Changes
Droughts	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change
Temperature extremes	High impact	High impact	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No change	<input type="checkbox"/>	No change

Please describe any other threats (optional):

For further information on pressures and threats, please refer to the following link: https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/20190923_MT0000015-Ghadira-SAC_SPA-3.pdf.

5.2.2 - Legal conservation status

Regional (international) legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
EU Natura 2000	L-Inhawi tal-Ghadira	https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32021D0159&from=EN ; https://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/ ; https://natura2000.eea.europa.eu/Natura2000/SDF.aspx?site=MT0000015	whole
Other international designation	L-Inhawi tal-Ghadira	https://www.coe.int/en/web/bern-convention/emerald-network ; https://www.coe.int/en/web/bern-convention/emerald-viewer	whole

National legal designations

Designation type	Name of area	Online information url	Overlap with Ramsar Site
Area of Ecological Importance	Bur salmastru fil-Hofra (limiti tal-Mellieha)	https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_288_of_1995.pdf	partly
Area of Ecological Importance	Irdumijiet Ta' Madwar il-Kosta miċ-Ċirkewwa sa Bengħisa	https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_400_of_1996.pdf	partly
Area of Ecological Importance (Buffer Zone)	L-art agrikola fl-arja tal-mejjeli u l-Ghadira	https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_491_of_2006.pdf	partly
Area of Ecological Importance (Buffer Zone)	L-ghelieqi abbandunati u makkja ta' s-Sdieri	https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_491_of_2006.pdf	partly
Area of Ecological Importance and Site of Scientific Importance	Il-bur salmastru u l-gharam tar-ramel tal-Ghadira	https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_491_of_2006.pdf	partly
Area of Ecological Importance and Site of Scientific Importance	Ix-xaghri tal-Bisqra	https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_491_of_2006.pdf	partly
Area of Ecological Importance and Site of Scientific Importance	L-ghelieqi abbandunati u x-xaghri tal-Qammieħ	https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_491_of_2006.pdf	partly
Area of High Landscape Value	Diversi Rдумijiet	https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_400_of_1996.pdf	partly
Bird Sanctuary	Il-madwar ta' l-Ghadira, fil-Bajja tal-Mellieha	https://legislation.mt/eli/si/549.42/eng/pdf	whole
Site of Scientific Importance	Il-bajja tar-ramel	https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_491_of_2006.pdf	partly
Site of Scientific Importance	Iż-Żrieħaq tat-tafal	https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_491_of_2006.pdf	partly
Special Areas of Conservation – Site of International Importance	L-Inħawi tal-Ghadira	https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/G_N_1522_of_2019.pdf ; https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/GN_1379_of_2016.pdf ; https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_112_of_2007-1.pdf ; https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_877	whole
Special Protection Areas	L-Inħawi tal-Ghadira	https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/G_N_1522_of_2019.pdf ; https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/GN_1379_of_2016.pdf ; https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_112_of_2007-1.pdf ; https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_877	whole

5.2.3 - IUCN protected areas categories (2008)

- Ia Strict Nature Reserve
- Ib Wilderness Area: protected area managed mainly for wilderness protection
- II National Park: protected area managed mainly for ecosystem protection and recreation
- III Natural Monument: protected area managed mainly for conservation of specific natural features
- IV Habitat/Species Management Area: protected area managed mainly for conservation through management intervention
- V Protected Landscape/Seascape: protected area managed mainly for landscape/seascape conservation and recreation
- VI Managed Resource Protected Area: protected area managed mainly for the sustainable use of natural ecosystems

5.2.4 - Key conservation measures

Legal protection

Measures	Status
Legal protection	Implemented

Habitat

Measures	Status
Habitat manipulation/enhancement	Implemented

Species

Measures	Status
Threatened/rare species management programmes	Implemented
Control of invasive alien plants	Implemented
Control of invasive alien animals	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Communication, education, and participation and awareness activities	Implemented

Other:

All measures included in the Management Plan are ongoing.

5.2.5 - Management planning

Is there a site-specific management plan for the site? Yes

Has a management effectiveness assessment been undertaken for the site? Yes No

If the site is a formal transboundary site as indicated in section Data and location > Site location, are there shared management planning processes with another Contracting Party? Yes No

Please indicate if a Ramsar centre, other educational or visitor facility, or an educational or visitor programme is associated with the site:

As indicated earlier, the wetland is managed by BLM on behalf of the ERA, the competent authority responsible for the site, by means of a Management Agreement between the two mentioned parties, established through the vires of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations (SL 549.44). Furthermore, the site has a reception centre and a bird hide which is utilised both to raise awareness about nature conservation and the environment, and also to study and monitor bird species that reside, breed and/or migrate to the site. Records include: daily logs kept for different animal species, studies and nest records for breeding species and data for weather conditions and water quality. The interpretive centre found at L-Ghadira receives a lot of visitors annually, including school children. It serves as a very important educational resource.

5.2.6 - Planning for restoration

Is there a site-specific restoration plan? Yes, there is a plan

5.2.7 - Monitoring implemented or proposed

Monitoring	Status
Animal species (please specify)	Implemented
Plant species	Implemented
Birds	Implemented

“BirdLife Malta” (managing entity of the site) is conducting regular patrols in order to ensure no intrusions occur and to check the general condition of the site. In addition, an annual report on the status of the area and actions/measures from management plan implemented is submitted to competent authority (ERA) every 6 months.

6 - Additional material

6.1 - Additional reports and documents

6.1.1 - Bibliographical references

AIS (2014). Baseline surveys for inland surface and transitional waters hydromorphological, physicochemical and biological quality elements, Final report Available at: https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/PRJ-ENV75_FinalReport_170214_FINAL.pdf

ERA (2019). Habitats Directive: Report on implementation measures. Retrieved February 17, 2021, from Eionet: https://cdr.eionet.europa.eu/mt/eu/art17/envxngv_g/

L-Inħawi tal Għadira, Natura 2000 Management Plan (SAC / SPA) Available at: https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/L-Inħawi_tal-Ghadira_ManagementPlan.pdf

Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for L-Inħawi tal Għadira. Available at: https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/20190923_MT0000015-Ghadira-SAC_SPA-3.pdf

Schembri, P. J., & Sultana, J. (1989). Red data book for the Maltese Islands. Malta: Department of Information. Available at: <https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/RedDataBook-MalteseIslands-1989.pdf>

Sultana, D. (2015). Numerical Modelling of Soil Erosion Susceptibility in the Maltese Islands using Geographic Information Systems and the Revised Universal Soil Loss Equation (RUSLE). Xjenza Online, 3:41-50. Available at: https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Modelling_Soil_Erosion_Maltese_Islands-DSultana-2015.pdf

The 2nd Water Catchment Management Plan for the Malta Water Catchment District (2015 - 2021) Available at: https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/2nd_Water_Catchment_Management_Plan-Malta_Water_in_Maltese_Islands-3.pdf

6.1.2 - Additional reports and documents

i. taxonomic lists of plant and animal species occurring in the site (see section 4.3)

<no file available>

ii. a detailed Ecological Character Description (ECD) (in a national format)

<no file available>

iii. a description of the site in a national or regional wetland inventory

<no file available>

iv. relevant Article 3.2 reports

<no file available>

v. site management plan

<1 file(s) uploaded>

vi. other published literature

<1 file(s) uploaded>

6.1.3 - Photograph(s) of the Site

Please provide at least one photograph of the site:



L-Ghadira (Environment & Resources Authority, 03-06-2021)



L-Ghadira (Environment & Resources Authority, 01-02-2023)



L-Ghadira (Environment & Resources Authority, 01-02-2023)



L-Ghadira (Environment & Resources Authority, 01-02-2023)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation