



Ramsar Information Sheet

Published on 20 April 2023

Update version, previously published on : 1 January 1998

Malta Is-Simar



Designation date	29 January 1996
Site number	789
Coordinates	35°56'41"N 14°22'43"E
Area	58,37 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

Is-Simar incorporates various features including locally rare coastal lagoons and temporary ponds, surrounded by garrigue/phrygana and the agricultural land.

This wetland is an important feeding/resting area for a number of migratory bird species and wintering site of others (for example globally threatened *Aythya farina*). Site supports one of the few Maltese populations of the Mediterranean killifish (*Aphanius fasciatus*), and is also habitat for the endemic Maltese Waterwort (*Elatine gussonei*); the latter is Hyblaean-Maltese endemic species, i.e. it is confined to the Maltese Islands, the island of Lampedusa (Italy) and SE Sicily (Italy). The presence of the endemic Maltese Pyramidal Orchid (*Anacamptis urvilleana*) and the Maltese Spider Orchid (*Ophrys melitensis*) is also confirmed at this site.

2 - Data & location

2.1 - Formal data

2.1.1 - Name and address of the compiler of this RIS

Responsible compiler

Institution/agency	Environment and Resources Authority
Postal address	Hexagon House, Spencer Hill Marsa, MRS 1441

National Ramsar Administrative Authority

Institution/agency	Environment and Resources Authority
Postal address	Hexagon House, Spencer Hill Marsa, MRS 1441

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

From year	1996
To year	2021

2.1.3 - Name of the Ramsar Site

Official name (in English, French or Spanish)	Is-Simar
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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 <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/>
(Update) The boundary has been delineated more accurately	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(Update) The boundary has been extended	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Update) The boundary has been restricted	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Update) B. Changes to Site area	the area has increased
(Update) The Site area has been calculated more accurately	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Update) The Site has been delineated more accurately	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
(Update) The Site area has increased because of a boundary extension	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Update) The Site area has decreased because of a boundary restriction	<input type="checkbox"/>
(Update) For secretariat only. This update is an extension	<input type="checkbox"/>

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?	Not evaluated
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2.2 - Site location

2.2.1 - Defining the Site boundaries

b) Digital map/image

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Former maps	0
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Boundaries description

Is-Simar is found in the north-east coast of Malta. It is part of the St Paul's Bay locality boundary and it aligns exactly with the Natura 2000 site: Is-Simar (limiti ta' San Pawl) (MT0000006). The site is found close to Ix-Xemxija village and is located in the Pwales Valley and on the Bajda Ridge escarpment. The east of the site borders Xemxija Bay whilst the west borders the Pwales agricultural area. To the south there is the Wardija Ridge escarpment and to the north there is the Bajda Ridge. This Ramsar Site is close to two other protected areas, namely Il-Ballut tal-Wardija and Ix-Xaghra tal-Kortin. The seaward area of the site borders the Il-Grigal ta' Malta Marine Protected Area. The wetland is surrounded by agricultural land that stretches west of the wetland. Further upland, overlooking the valley, a forested area is partially included within the northern boundary of the site. A labiate garrigue is located south of the forested area; a rocky andropogonid grass steppe dominates abandoned agricultural land and forms a mosaic with the garrigue community in places.

2.2.2 - General location

RIS for Site no. 789, Is-Simar, Malta

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 the important role that site has in flood control and as water storage.
Other ecosystem services provided	Area provides provisioning and supporting services as it serves as resting/feeding area for many migratory bird species and as a habitat for threatened habitats and species, including some endemic species.
Other reasons	Is-Simar is a coastal wetland within the Mediterranean biogeographical regime. The site was heavily disturbed following human influence and was restored in the late 20th Century. Parts of the site were specifically engineered for the benefits of water birds and now functions in an almost natural way. It contains wetland habitat types such as riparian communities, coastal lagoons and temporary ponds, which are all locally rare. As previously indicated, this site supports various bird species, of which some breed within the site, whilst others migrate and rest during wintering seasons. Is-Simar is also known to supports other wetland dependent species, such as the Mediterranean Killifish (<i>Aphanius fasciatus</i>).

Criterion 2 : Rare species and threatened ecological communities

Optional text box to provide further information	<p>Is-Simar hosts and supports a number species, which are vulnerable at both national and international level. It supports one of the most successful bird sanctuaries in the country, acting as a nesting and breeding site for a number of protected species. The wetland area provides an adequate feeding and resting area for a number of migratory bird species of which few are vulnerable in Europe. Such examples include the Common Pochard (<i>Aythya ferina</i>), the Common Kingfisher (<i>Alcedo atthis</i>) and the European Turtle-dove (<i>Streptopelia turtur</i>).</p> <p>Furthermore, the wetland is also reported to sustain a very good population of Mediterranean killifish (<i>Aphanius fasciatus</i>), which although frequent in this site is considered as nationally rare in view of its limited habitat type at a national level.</p>
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Criterion 3 : Biological diversity

Justification

Is-Simar hosts a range of various habitat types, which include riparian communities, coastal lagoons, phrygana/garrigues and rainwater (temporary) rock pools. The aforementioned coastal lagoons support one of the best population of *Aphanius fasciatus* 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. The riparian communities are characterised by Nerio-Tamaricetea species, with the occurrence of selected *Populetea* species. The species forming such habitat types are very rare in the Maltese Islands. The coastal lagoons also contain underwater vegetation including *Ruppia* and important reedbeds of *Phragmites australis*, which are important for migratory and nesting birds. The garrigue and phrygana habitats present within the site actually represents a mosaic of labiate garrigue and rocky andropogonid grass steppe characterised by the plant species *Thymra capitata*, *Teucrium fruticans*, *Asparagus aphyllus*, *Hyparrhenia hirta*, *Andropogon distachyos*, and the endemic *Chiliadenus bocconei*. These habitats also provide an important habitat for native reptiles such as the endemic *Podarcis filfolensis*; and *Tarentola mauritanica*, *Hemidactylus turcicus turcicus*, *Chalcides ocellatus*, *Telescopus fallax*, *Hierophis viridiflavus* and *Zamenis situla*. Furthermore, the aforementioned rainwater rock pools found within this Ramsar site provide a perfect habitat for *Elatine gussonei* and the endemic *Zannichellia melitensis*, which are rare flora species associated with such freshwater habitats. Many of these habitats and species are covered in the Maltese Islands in terms of the Environment Protection Act (Cap. 549) and/or are included in the EU's Habitats Directive and the COE's Bern Convention.

Criterion 4 : Support during critical life cycle stage or in adverse conditions

Optional text box to provide further information

Is-Simar hosts and supports a number of internally important species. The site provides an important habitat for a number of migratory bird species, as well as, wintering and breeding species. Species breeding at the site include the Reed Warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*), the Moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), the Common Coot (*Fulica atra*), the Zitting Cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) and the Sardinian Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*). Is-Simar also supports the most extensive *Phragmites* reed bed in the Maltese Islands, which is an ideal habitat for several marshland species, providing shelter and food for waterfowl, herons, rails and passerines. The site also includes a part of the Mizieb woodland, which together with the wetland habitat, provide an invaluable feeding, resting and roosting stopover for birds during their migration season.

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 checked="" 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)	This entry refers to <i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i> subsp. <i>urvilleana</i> , which is endemic to the Maltese Islands.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Chiliadenus bocconeii</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Nationally Endemic	<i>Chiliadenus bocconeii</i> is endemic to the Maltese Islands.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Elatine gussonei</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nationally Sub-endemic; Annex II & IV species of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)	<i>Elatine gussonei</i> is sub-endemic to the Maltese Islands
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Iris pallida pallida</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/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Iris pseudopumila</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List	Species is listed in Red Data Book as Vulnerable in the Maltese Islands.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Juncus maritimus</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>Myrtus communis</i>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	VU - National Red List	Species is listed in Red Data Book as Vulnerable in the Maltese Islands.
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Ophrys flavicans</i>	<input checked="" 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)	This entry refers to <i>Ophrys melitensis</i> , which is endemic to the Maltese Islands
TRACHEOPHYTA/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Ruppia maritima</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/ PINOPSIDA	<i>Tetraclinis articulata</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/ LILIOPSIDA	<i>Zannichellia palustris palustris</i>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	LC	<input type="checkbox"/>	Nationally Endemic	<i>Zannichellia 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								
Others																	
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.
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.

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/ 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).
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Oryctolagus cuniculus</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"/>				EN	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		Species is listed as EN at IUCN level
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</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 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. Site is used as a foraging site (roosting at locality close by).
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	Podarcis filfolensis is endemic to the Maltese Islands
CHORDATA/ MAMMALIA	<i>Rhinolophus hipposideros</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 & 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).
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"/>					<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.
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>Anguilla anguilla</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"/>				CR	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Appendix II of CITES; Appendix II of the CMS	Species is Critically endangered at IUCN level
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 is listed as vulnerable in Red Data Book. Site is one of the remaining habitats in Malta.
Birds																	
CHORDATA/ AVES	<i>Acrocephalus scirpaceus</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 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 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	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>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 II of Bern Convention	Species is of a migratory nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Apus apus</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 breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Apus pallidus</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 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 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"/>					<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; Species is of a breeding 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; Species is of a breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population..
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Charadrius dubius</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 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>Cisticola juncidis</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 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.

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 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"/>	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; Species is of a breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
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 breeding 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 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 Bern Convention	Species is of a breeding 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"/>					<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; Species is of a breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
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>Monticola solitarius</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 II of CMS; Appendix II of Bern Convention	Species is listed in Red Data Book of Maltese Islands as vulnerable; Species is of a breeding nature, whereby the site is able support its population.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Muscicapa striata</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 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.
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Passer hispaniolensis</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 breeding 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.

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>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 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 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 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 melanocephala</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 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 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>Turdus pilaris</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.

1) Percentage of the total biogeographic population at the site

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
West Mediterranean clifftop phryganas (Astragalo-Plantagineum subulatae)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Rare, extremely local and isolated, cushion-forming thermo-Mediterranean sclerophyllous associations of clifftops.	Listed as Habitat 5410 under Annex I of Council Directive 92/43/EEC (Habitats Directive)
Mediterranean temporary ponds	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Very shallow temporary ponds (a few centimetres) which exist only in winter or late spring, with flora mainly composed of Mediterranean therophytic and geophytic species.	Listed as Habitat 3170 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

Is-Simar incorporates various features including an engineered wetland habitat, surrounded by agricultural land that stretches west of the wetland. It is a coastal site with a mosaic of brackish water pools, ditches, islands and embankments dominated with *Phragmites australis* (Common Reed) and groves of *Tamarix africana* (African Tamarisk) and *Olea europaea* (Olive trees). Further upland, overlooking the valley, a forested area is partially included within the northern boundary of the site. A labiate garrigue is located south of the forested area; a rocky andropogonid grass steppe dominates abandoned agricultural land and forms a mosaic with the garrigue community in places. The garrigue includes temporary rain water rock pools. The area is an attraction to avifauna, especially water birds. Migrating water birds use site as resting area and some use it as wintering ground (one of these species is globally endangered *Aythya farina*). Monitoring data collected has indicated that fluctuations in pH, dissolved oxygen, temperature and salinity do occur in the Simar water body. Species that is directly affected by these changes is endemic fish *Aphanius fasciatus*, however, this fish is adapted to extreme fluctuations of environmental conditions and its population is stable.

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
J: Coastal brackish / saline lagoons	Bur salmastru (plural: bwar salmastri)	1	3.32	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
Saline, brackish or alkaline water > Marshes & pools >> Ss: Seasonal/ intermittent saline/ brackish/ alkaline marshes/ pools	Ghadira tal-ilma fil-blat (plural: ghadajjar tal-ilma fil-blat)	2	0.07	Rare

Other non-wetland habitat

Other non-wetland habitats within the site	Area (ha) if known
Phrygana and other garrigue communities	3.01
Other lands	51.97

(ECD) Habitat connectivity

The site has two basins and both of them incorporate a number of small low-lying islands. Both basins are hydraulically interconnected.

4.3 - Biological components

4.3.1 - Plant species

Other noteworthy plant species

Phylum	Scientific name	Position in range / endemism / other
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Anagyris foetida</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Andropogon distachyos</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Asparagus aphyllus</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Asphodelus fistulosus</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Asphodelus ramosus</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Cerantonia siliqua</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Convolvulus oleifolius</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Convolvulus tricolor</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Cressa cretica</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Drimia pancration</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Hyparrhenia hirta</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Laurus nobilis</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Olea europaea</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Phagnalon graecum</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Phillyrea latifolia</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Phlomis fruticosa</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/PINOPSIDA	<i>Pinus halepensis</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Populus alba</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Rhamnus oleoides</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Sedum caeruleum</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Tamarix africana</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Teucrium fruticans</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Thymra capitata</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Triglochin laxiflora</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/LILIOPSIDA	<i>Typha domingensis</i>	
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Vitex agnus-castus</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/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Eucalyptus globulus</i>	Actual (minor impacts)	No change
TRACHEOPHYTA/MAGNOLIOPSIDA	<i>Lycium ferocissimum</i>	Potential	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>Acrocephalus melanopogon</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Acrocephalus schoenobaenus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Actitis hypoleucos</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anthus cervinus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anthus pratensis</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Anthus trivialis</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Apus melba</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Ardea alba</i>				
CHORDATA/MAMMALIA	<i>Atelerix algirus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Capella media</i>				

Phylum	Scientific name	Pop. size	Period of pop. est.	% occurrence	Position in range /endemism/other
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Carduelis carduelis</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Carpodacus erythrinus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Cecropis daurica</i>				
CHORDATA/ACTINOPTERYGII	<i>Chelon labrosus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Chroicocephalus ridibundus</i>				
ARTHROPODA/MALACOSTRACA	<i>Crangon crangon</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Delichon urbicum</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Emberiza schoeniclus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Erithacus rubecula</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Falco subbuteo</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Ficedula hypoleuca</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Ficedula parva</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Hippolais icterina</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Jynx torquilla</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Locustella luscinioides</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/AVES	<i>Oenanthe oenanthe</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Oriolus oriolus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phalacrocorax carbo</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Philomachus pugnax</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phoenicurus ochruros</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phoenicurus phoenicurus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phylloscopus sibilatrix sibilatrix</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Podiceps nigricollis</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Porzana porzana</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Prunella modularis</i>				
CHORDATA/AVES	<i>Regulus ignicapillus ignicapillus</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>				

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

Invasive alien animal species

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

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)

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 checked="" 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:

Is-Simar receives runoff from the Pwales valley and the surrounding high ground. It was once also connected to Xemxija Bay, however marine input is now limited due to the construction of a coast road that skirted the outskirts of St. Paul's Bay. Today the only connection to the sea is via a drainage canal which passes underneath the road. This reduced connection to the sea has altered the dynamics of the ecosystem and established lagoon conditions and fluctuating physicochemical conditions such as salinity, temperature, dissolved oxygen and pH. The water depth, based on one year data, varies from 1.35m during the wet season to 0.8m during the dry summer months.

(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 Simar.

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 high surface vegetation cover and is therefore subject to low sediment erosion rates (<1 t Ha-1 yr-1). However, the Maltese north-eastern areas are characterised by a large range in erosion rates (from 5 to >75t Ha-1 yr-1) due to, amongst others, high topographic gradients and inappropriate cultivation practices.

(ECD) Water turbidity and colour	Studies held between January & June 2020 showed that water turbidity at Simar varied between 15.75 and 58.40 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 water temperature at Simar varied between 14.2°C and 23.18°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 is-Simar varied between 7.83 and 8.55.

4.4.7 - Water salinity

Mixohaline (brackish)/Mixosaline (0.5-30 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 is-Simar varied between 21.78ppt (≈22 g/l) and 28.50ppt (≈28 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 is-Simar was approximately 77.75%.

4.4.8 - Dissolved or suspended nutrients in water

Oligotrophic

(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 nitrate concentration is low at is-Simar, with a reading of approximately 0.002yg-at N/L. Readings of phosphate concentration within the same area also show that it is low (approximately 0.050 yg-at P/L). 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 and 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.

(ECD) Water conductivity

Studies held between January and June 2020 showed that water conductivity varied between 34,590 and 44,117 yS/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 site itself. i) broadly similar ii) significantly different

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	Nature observation and nature-based tourism	Medium
Spiritual and inspirational	Aesthetic and sense of place values	Medium
Scientific and educational	Important knowledge systems, importance for research (scientific reference area or site)	Medium
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

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

Is-Simar is used for educational awareness for school children and the general public and also 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

The northwestern part of the site includes a number of archaeological sites. Apart from this area, the Pwales Valley also has the potential for further archaeological discoveries due to the rich presence of related remains in the area. The site is also important for its environmental archaeology due to its depositional nature. Furthermore, there are different features of historical interest within the management plan area. The area includes part of the Xemxija Area of Archaeological Importance (AAI). This AAI includes different features like the remains of a late Neolithic Temple and a Punic Tomb. The area also includes a very old carob tree (*Ceratonia siliqua*), reputedly about a thousand years old. The site also includes the St Anne's Chapel, which is built at the foot of the Bajda Ridge escarpment; this was built in the same place as an older chapel dedicated to the Nativity of Mary and has historical significance. The site also includes an Agricultural Heritage Museum located at Ta' Rkuplu. A number of rubble walls are also identified as cultural heritage features.

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	Is-Simar 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	Dispersal of animal and plant species from islands is mostly limited. However, 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 Palaeartic-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/2019/05/20180601_MT0000006-Simar-SAC_SPA.pdf .

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):

The southern and south-eastern parts of the area are government land. Other pockets that are government owned are found in the northern part, eastwards of Ix-Xagħra tal-Għansar, the Simar area which is found immediately at the back of the wetland site and a small pocket to the north-west of the Xemxija settlement. The site includes areas of privately owned land, mostly found to the western, central and northern parts of the site. Ix-Xemxija, Il-Pwales, Tal-Imbordin and Ta' Gannaru are predominately private areas.

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; the Ministry for the environment; 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

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

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	Medium impact	Medium 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

Geological events

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

Please describe any other threats (optional):

The 'Unspecified' threat under the 'Geologic events' category mainly refers to natural events such as erosion and silting up.

For further information on pressures and threats, please refer to the following link:

https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/20180601_MT0000006-Simar-SAC_SPA.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	Is-Simar (limiti ta' San Pawl il-Baħar)	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	Is-Simar (limiti ta' San Pawl il-Baħar)	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	Ix-xagħri tax-Xagħra tal-Għansar u x-Xemxija	https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_371_of2008.pdf ; https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_1070_of_2006.pdf	partly
Area of Ecological Importance (Buffer Zone)	Il-masġar fuq ix-Xagħra tal-Għansar u x-Xemxija	https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_371_of2008.pdf ; https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_1070_of_2006.pdf	partly
Area of Ecological Importance (Buffer Zone)	Il-masġar madwar ir-riservattas-Simar	https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_371_of2008.pdf ; https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_1070_of_2006.pdf	partly
Area of Ecological Importance (Buffer Zone)	L-art agrikola fl-arja ta' l-Imbordin, ta' Ġannaru, is-Simar, il-Pwales u ta' Rkuplu	https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_371_of2008.pdf ; https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_1070_of_2006.pdf	partly
Area of Ecological Importance and Site of Scientific Importance	Is-sistema ta' għadajjar salmastru ġewwa r-Riservattas-Simar	https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_371_of2008.pdf ; https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/GN_1070_of_2006.pdf	partly
Bird Sanctuary	Il-Madwar tas-Simar, fir-Ramla tal-Pwales, San Pawl il-Baħar	https://legislation.mt/eli/sl/549.42/eng/pdf	whole
Special Areas of Conservation – Site of International Importance	Is-Simar	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	Is-Simar	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)

1a Strict Nature Reserve

1b 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
Control of invasive alien plants	Implemented
Control of invasive alien animals	Implemented

Human Activities

Measures	Status
Harvest controls/poaching enforcement	Implemented
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 site 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 Is-Simar 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
Water quality	Implemented

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/.

Is-Simar (limiti ta' San Pawl il-Baħar) Natura 2000 Management Plan (SAC / SPA). Available at: https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/Is-Simar_ManagementPlan.pdf.

Natura 2000 Standard Data Form for Is-Simar (limiti ta' San Pawl il-Baħar). Available at: https://era.org.mt/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/20180601_MT0000006-Simar-SAC_SPA.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:



Is-Simar (Environment & Resources Authority, 06-11-2019)



Is-Simar (Environment & Resources Authority, 01-02-2023)



Is-Simar (Environment & Resources Authority, 01-02-2023)

6.1.4 - Designation letter and related data

Designation letter

<1 file(s) uploaded>

Date of Designation 1996-01-29