



Ramsar Sites Information Service

Annotated List of Wetlands of International Importance

Malta

2 Ramsar Site(s) covering 156 ha

Is-Simar

Site number: 789 | Country: Malta | Administrative region: Reġjun Tramuntana, Malta (Northern Region, Malta)

Area: 58.4 ha | Coordinates: 35°56'41"N 14°22'43"E | Designation dates: 29-01-1996

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This Site is a human-made coastal wetland, which features locally rare coastal lagoons and temporary ponds, surrounded by garrigue and farmland. The wetland area provides a feeding and resting area for several migratory bird species of which a few are vulnerable in Europe, such as the globally vulnerable common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and the European turtle dove (*Streptopelia turtur*). Species breeding at the site include the reed warbler (*Acrocephalus scirpaceus*), the moorhen (*Gallinula chloropus*), the Zitting cisticola (*Cisticola juncidis*) and the Sardinian warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*). The Site supports one of the few Maltese populations of the Mediterranean killifish (*Aphanius fasciatus*), and the endemic Maltese pyramidal orchid (*Anacamptis urvilleana*) and Maltese spider orchid (*Ophrys melitensis*). The Site is important for the maintenance of hydrological regimes and for flood control. Water levels are maintained by precipitation, run-off, and saltwater seepage through the porous substratum. There are bird observation hides. Noise pollution from a nearby road creates some disturbance.

L-Għadira

Site number: 410 | Country: Malta | Administrative region: Reġjun Tramuntana, Malta (Northern Region, Malta)

Area: 97.8 ha | Coordinates: 35°58'12"N 14°20'44"E | Designation dates: 30-09-1988

[View Site details in RSIS](#)

The Site is a coastal wetland consisting of a small salt marsh, a brackish pool (a locally rare habitat) with fluctuating salinity, and adjacent sand dunes, garrigue, steppe and farmland. The pool hosts an endemic killifish (*Aphanius fasciatus*) which is locally restricted to a few sites. Typical Mediterranean salt marsh vegetation is present with communities extending into the sand dunes. The adjacent garrigue areas host the endemic Maltese pyramidal orchid (*Anacamptis urvilleana*) and Maltese spider orchid (*Ophrys melitensis*). The Site attracts birds, especially waterbirds, some of which nest in the area while others rest on their migration, or winter such as the vulnerable common pochard (*Aythya ferina*) and the European turtle dove (*Streptopelia turtur*). Human activities include intensive summer tourism and conservation education. The Site is important for erosion protection and flood control. Climate changes resulting in droughts and extreme temperatures pose a threat to its ecological character.