



GOZ024 - L-Ghadira ta' San Raflu

Description

Ghadira ta' San Raflu is a natural freshwater pond, located in western Gozo, within San Lawrenz. The pond covers an area of approximately 1,170m². The pond is accessible to the public by a surfaced road and is a well-known tourist destination. The pond is predominantly surrounded by agricultural land, however, the pond is not used for irrigation due to its cultural importance.

Within the basin of the pond, *Tamarix* sp., *Galactites tomentosa*, *Geranium mole* and *Calendula sicula* (which is only found in San Raflu and Xlendi) were present. Both the Maltese native frog, *Discoglossus pictus* and the alien frog species, *Pelophylax bedriagae* were recorded on site. The latter was introduced in the 1990s and has since then established a permanent population within the pond. Other species present within the pond include, goldfish, ducks, terrapins and freshwater fish (such as *Gambusia holbrooki*), all of which have been introduced. The freshwater wetland is designated as an Area of Ecological Importance and a Site of Scientific Importance Protected Area (G.N. 288/95) and as a Special Area of Conservation - National Importance (G.N. 683/18).

General information

Basic information

Wetland location:	Inland
Wetland type:	Artificial
Natural / Artificial:	Excavations/gravel/brick/clay pit pool
Area (Ha):	0.10
Hydrological interaction with other wetland:	No -
Water salinity:	Fresh (< 0.5 g/l)
Fresh water entry:	Catchment area (precipitation)
Surface water runoff:	Outflow controlled by pipeline
Open water area (%):	76 - 95
Hydroperiod:	Permanent

Geographic information

Census district:	Gozo and Comino
Island:	Gozo
Local council:	Ta' Kercem
Coordinates (WGS84):	14.199030 E - 36.036640 N

Biological significance

Biological significance:	Low
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Ramsar wetland types

Ramsar type	Coverage (%)
7 -- Excavations; gravel/brick/clay pits; borrow pits, mining pools	

Property status

Public

Protection statuses & other designations

Protection status

Protection status category	Protection status subcategory	Site name	Code	Coverage (%)	Legislation
National	Area of Ecological Importance/Site of Scientific Importance	Ghadajjar ta' l-ilma helu fl-Ghadira ta' Sarraflu (l/ta' Kercem, Ghawdex)	14822	100	Development Planning Act (Act VII of 2016)
National	Special Areas of Conservation - National Importance	L-Ghadira ta' Sarraflu (l/tal-Kercem)	330742	100	Environment Protection Act (Act I of 2016)
International	Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas	Xlendi Bay to Wardija Point Cliffs	MT010	100	
International	Pools	Ghadira a' Sarraflu	MT SW 02	100	Water Framework Directive

CDDA protection status

CDDA code	Category
MT02	Area of Ecological Importance/Site of Scientific Importance
MT10	Special Areas of Conservation - National Importance

Important bird areas

IBA Code	Site name	Coverage (%)
MT010	Xlendi Bay to Wardija Point Cliffs	100

Ecosystem Services, Activities & Impacts

Ecosystem Services

Type of Ecosystem service	Ecosystem service	Scale of Benefit	Importance
Cultural services	Recreation and tourism		
Provisioning services	Food		
Provisioning services	Fresh water		
Regulatory services	Flood hazard regulation		
Regulatory services	Storm hazard regulation		
Regulatory services	Water regulation		

Activities on wetland

Activities	Intensity
020 = Resource conservation	High
130 = Irrigation	High
701 = water pollution	High
790 = Other pollution/human impacts/activities	Low
910 = Silting up	Low

Activities on drainage basin

Activities	Intensity
100 = Cultivation	High
110 = Use of pesticides	High
120 = Fertilisation	High
130 = Irrigation	High

230 = Hunting	High
301 = quarries	High
502 = roads motorways	Medium
701 = water pollution	High
790 = Other pollution/human impacts/activities	Low

Impacts

Impact type	Intensity
EB- = Increase in aesthetic qualities	
ED- = Increase in sediment removal/retention	
EE- = Increase of economic potential	
ES- = Increase in water supply	
EU- = Increase of tourist/recreation potential	
FB- = Disruption of natural balance/interaction between faunal species	
PF- = Fertilizer/Excess nutrient pollution	
PP- = Pesticide pollution	

Habitats & Vegetation

Vegetation types

Vegetation type	Coverage (%)
Other	5 - 25
Shrubby / Arborescent	26 - 50

Species

Flora

Species	Dominance	Reference
Galactites tomentosa		
Geranium molle		
Tamarix sp.		

Fauna

Birds	Population	Nesting status	References
Larus cachinnans			
Monticola solitarius (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Calonectris diomedea (Scopoli, 1769)			
Puffinus yelkouan (Acerbi, 1827)			

Amphibians	Presence in wetland	References
Discoglossus pictus (Otth, 1837)		
Pelophylax bedriagae (Camerano, 1882)		

Invertebrates	Presence in wetland	References
Odonta spp.		
Orthetrum trinacria (Selys, 1841)		

References

ERA (2015) The 2 nd Water Catchment Management Plan for the Malta Water Catchment District 2015 - 2021

Sciberras, A. & Schembri, P. J. (2006) Occurrence of the alien Bedriaga's frog (*Rana bedriagae* Camerano, 1882) in the Maltese Islands, and implications for conservation

Representative Image & Map



