GOZ032 - Ghajn Klin

Description

Għajn Klin is an artificially constructed pond, located in south-eastern Gozo within the village of Għajnsielem. The pond covers an approximate area of 3,910m2. The site is accessible to the public from a surfaced road. The site is predominantly surrounded by agricultural land. Residences are located to the north of the pond. The boundary between the residential area and the terraced land beneath is connected through a road that leads past Għajn Klin and eventually to the coast. Pipelines were present scattered throughout the fields, indicating that the pond is being used for the irrigation of the nearby agricultural fields. A conversation with a local confirmed that the water that is collected at Għajn Klin helps to sustain the fields in the area.

A maquis habitat was present behind the pond, dominated by Ceratonia siliqua and Olea europaea, with Opuntia ficus-indica being abundant at field boundaries. Within the pond, species of interest included Juncus sp., Tamarix sp. and Typha domingensis, however, a relatively high percentage of alien species such as Mirabilis jalapa var. odorata, Ricinus communis, Oxalis pes-caprae and Arundo donax were also recorded.

Pelophylax bedriagae was found to be abundant within the pond. This alien frog was also highly vocal during the field investigation. It is not excluded that a population of Discoglossus pictus might also be present although specimens of this species was not noted during the site investiagation. The site is not protected by any legislation.

General information

Basic information

Wetland location:	Inland
Wetland type:	Artificial
Natural / Artificial:	Reservoir
Area (Ha):	0.40
Hydrological interaction with other wetland:	No -
Water salinity:	Fresh (< 0.5 g/l)
Fresh water entry:	Catchment area (precipitation)
Surface water runoff:	Other
Open water area (%):	26 - 50
Hydroperiod:	Permanent

Geographic information

Census district:	Gozo and Comino
Island:	Gozo
Local council:	Ghajnsielem and Comino
Coordinates (WGS84):	14.287880 E - 36.022880 N

Biological significance

Biological significance:	High

Ramsar wetland types

Ramsar type	Coverage (%)
2 -- Ponds; includes farm ponds, stock ponds, small tanks; (generally below 8 ha)	

Property status

Private

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 f'Ghajn Klin, ix-Xatt l-Ahmar (l/ta' Ghajnsielem, Ghawdex)	174725	99	Development Planning Act (Act VII of 2016)

CDDA protection status

CDDA code	Category
MT02	Area of Ecological Importance/Site of Scientific Importance

Ecosystem Services, Activities & Impacts

Ecosystem Services

Type of Ecosystem service	Ecosystem service	Scale of Benefit	Importance
Provisioning services	Food		
Provisioning services	Fresh water		
Regulatory services	Water regulation		
Supporting services	Nutrient cycling		
Supporting services	Provision of habitat		

Activities on wetland

Activities	Intensity
130 = Irrigation	High
502 = roads motorways	Medium
701 = water pollution	Low
954 = invasion by a species	High

Activities on drainage basin

Activities	Intensity
100 = Cultivation	High
110 = Use of pesticides	High
120 = Fertilisation	High
130 = Irrigation	High
401 = continuous urbanisation	High
430 = Agricultural structures	Low
502 = roads motorways	High
530 = Improved access to site	High
710 = Noise nuisance	Medium

Impacts

Impact type	Intensity

EE- = Increase of economic potential	
ES- = Increase in water supply	
PF- = Fertilizer/Excess nutrient pollution	
PP- = Pesticide pollution	

Habitats & Vegetation

Vegetation types

Vegetation type	Coverage (%)
Emergent	76 - 95
Other	
Other	5 - 25
Shrubby / Arborescent	5 - 25
Wet meadow	5 - 25

Species

Flora

Species	Dominance	Reference
Arundo donax		
Ceratonia siliqua		
Juncus sp.		
Mirabilis jalapa var. odorata		
Olea europaea		
Opuntia ficus-indica		
Oxalis pes-caprae		
Ricinus communis		
Tamarix sp.		
Typha domingensis		

Fauna

Amphibians	Presence in wetland	References
Pelophylax bedriagae (Camerano, 1882)		

References

Representative Image & Map




GOZ032
Ghajn Klin
Google Earth
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