



MAL002 - Rdum and Ras il-Qammieh

Description

Rdum and Ras il-Qammieh is an area which supports numerous natural rockpools, located in north-western Malta, within Mellieħa. These rockpools are etched out in Globigerina limestone, and are filled by precipitation and sea spray, due to their location on the coastline. The sites cover an approximate area of 40,700m² and access is difficult due to their relatively remote locations. The Ras il-Qammieh rockpools lie directly at the base of clay slopes. The site can also be seen from the cliff area above.

The slopes are dominated by *Lygeum spartum* with patches of *Arundo donax* while at the base of the slopes *Juncus maritimum*, *Chrithmum maritimum*, *Limbarda crithmoides* and *Limonium* sp. are present. Amongst the boulders lying at the bottom of the slopes, *Capparis orientalis* and *Euphorbia pinea* were present. The pools are designated as an Area of Ecological Importance/Site of Scientific Importance. These pools form part of a wider area of Area of Ecological Importance, an Area of High Landscape Value and part of the Ghadira Special Area of Conservation, designated under the Habitats Directive (Natura2000).

General information

Basic information

Wetland location:	Marine/Coastal
Wetland type:	Natural
Natural / Artificial:	Seasonal saltwater pond
Area (Ha):	4.10
Hydrological interaction with other wetland:	No -
Water salinity:	Brackish (5.0-18.0 g/l)
Fresh water entry:	Catchment area (precipitation)
Surface water runoff:	Other
Open water area (%):	< 5
Hydroperiod:	Seasonal

Geographic information

Census district:	Northern
Island:	Malta
Local council:	Il-Mellieħa
Coordinates (WGS84):	14.321720 E - 35.970030 N

Wetland condition

Wetland condition:	2 - Original habitats/landform still predominant (>50%)
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Ramsar wetland types

Ramsar type	Coverage (%)
D -- Rocky marine shores; includes rocky offshore islands, sea cliffs	

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	Irdumijiet Ta' Madwar il-Kosta mic-Cirkezza sa Benghisa	174729	100	Development Planning Act (Act VII of 2016)
National	Area of Ecological Importance/Site of Scientific Importance	Ghadajjar ta' l-ilma helu fil-Qammieh	14769	13	Development Planning Act (Act VII of 2016)
National	Area of High Landscape Value	Diversi Rdimijiet	555546316	100	Development Planning Act (Act VII of 2016)
International	Special Areas of Conservation - International Importance	Rdimijiet ta' Malta	330728	100	Environment Protection Act (Act I of 2016)

CDDA protection status

CDDA code	Category
MT01	Area of Ecological Importance
MT02	Area of Ecological Importance/Site of Scientific Importance
MT15	Area of High Landscape Value
MT11	Special Areas of Conservation - International Importance

Ecosystem Services, Activities & Impacts

Ecosystem Services

Type of Ecosystem service	Ecosystem service	Scale of Benefit	Importance
Cultural services	Cultural heritage		
Cultural services	Recreation and tourism		

Activities on wetland

Activities	Intensity
010 = Habitat conservation	High
920 = Drying out	Medium

Activities on drainage basin

Activities	Intensity
010 = Habitat conservation	High
220 = Leisure fishing	Medium
900 = Erosion	Medium
943 = collapse of terrain landslide	Medium

Impacts

Impact type	Intensity
EB- = Increase in aesthetic qualities	

Habitats & Vegetation

Vegetation types

Vegetation type	Coverage (%)
Halophytic	< 5
Other	

Species

Flora

Species	Dominance	Reference
Capparis orientalis		
Crithmum maritimum		
Euphorbia pinea		
Jacobaea crithmoides		
Juncus maritimus		
Limonium sp.		

Fauna

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

References

Representative Image & Map

