MAL004 - Tal-Blata Salt Pans

Description

Tal-Blata Salt Pans are a series of salt pans, located in northern Malta within the limits of Xemxija. The site is accessible to the public through a pathway near Fort Campbell. The salt pans cover an approximate area of 19,020m2. The site is a popular tourist destination. It is probable that the salt pans are no longer used for salt production due to being left in derelict conditions. The site is surrounded by abandoned agricultural land. The area is being used as an off-roading dirt track by motorcyclists and cars. The site is classified as an Area of Ecological Importance under G.N. 400/96, as a Special Area of Conservation – International Importance under Government Notice No. 1379 of 2016, in accordance with the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Protection Regulations, 2016 (S.L. 549.44), a No Trapping Zone under S.L. 504.71 and is within a Natura2000 site.

General information

Basic information

Wetland location:	Marine/Coastal
Wetland type:	Artificial
Natural / Artificial:	Saline
Area (Ha):	1.90
Hydrological interaction with other wetland:	No -
Water salinity:	Salty (> 18.0 g/l)
Fresh water entry:	Catchment area (precipitation)
Surface water runoff:	Other
Open water area (%):	76 - 95
Hydroperiod:	Permanent

Geographic information

Census district:	Northern
Island:	Malta
Local council:	Il-Mellieha
Coordinates (WGS84):	14.395650 E - 35.966810 N

Biological significance

Biological significance:	Low

Ramsar wetland types

Ramsar type	Coverage (%)
5 -- Salt exploitation sites; salt pans, salines, etc.	

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 mill-Irdum tal-Griebeg sa Il-Qala tal-Mistra fil-Mellieha/San Pawl il-Bahar	14775	100	Development Planning Act (Act VII of 2016)
National	Area of High Landscape Value	Diversi Rdumijiet	555546316	100	Development Planning Act (Act VII of 2016)
International	Special Areas of Conservation - International Importance	L-Inhawi ta' l-Imgiebah / Tal-Mignuna	330723	100	Environment Protection Act (Act I of 2016)

CDDA protection status

CDDA code	Category
MT01	Area of Ecological 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		
Supporting services	Provision of habitat		

Activities on wetland

Activities	Intensity
020 = Resource conservation	High
340 = Salt works	High
690 = Other leisure and tourism impacts	Medium
800 = Landfill land reclamation and drying out	High

Activities on drainage basin

Activities	Intensity
501 = paths tracks cycling tracks	High

Impacts

Impact type	Intensity
EB- = Increase in aesthetic qualities	
EE- = Increase of economic potential	
EF- = Increase in protection from natural forces	
EO- = Increase potential for natural products	
EU- = Increase of tourist/recreation potential	

Habitats & Vegetation

Species

References

Representative Image & Map




MAL004
Tal-Blata Salt Pans
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