



MAL020 - Ghajn Rihana

Description

Għajn Rihana is a large valley with numerous dams that passes between L-Imsejliet, Mosta and Burmarrad. It is broad and relatively flat-floored. There are two main tributaries - Wied ta' Sejkla and Wied ta' I-Arkata. Wied ta' I-Imsejliet and Wied tal-Ħżejjen form the upper parts of the valley system. The valley then continues as Wied ta' Għajn Mula. The downstream part of this valley, joining Wied il-Għasel at Għajn Rihana, is located on the opposite side of Burmarrad Road and is locally referred to as Wied ta' Għajn Rihana.

Għajn Rihana and its tributaries are important examples of wetlands and, particularly in the past supported extensive watercourse communities. However, they have become highly degraded in places, largely as a result of practices of surrounding farmland, despite being protected as an Area of Ecological Importance and Site of Scientific Interest. The field survey recorded the presence of watercourse communities (dominated by *Juncus subulatus*, *Rumex conglomeratus*, as well as the *Arundo donax*), interspersed and dominated in places by ruderal vegetation. Agricultural land is one of the main uses within the area and associated vegetation and including trees planted at the boundaries has thus influenced the habitats. Species recorded included the parasites *Phelipanche mutellii* and *Orobancha crenata* as well as the host *Vicia faba* and numerous other ruderals including *Avena barbata*, *Lobularia maritima*, *Borago officinalis*, and *Papaver rhoeas*. Trees associated with adjacent farmland included *Ficus carica*, *Olea europaea*, and *Citrus* sp were recorded. The invasive alien *Ricinus communis* was also present.

The local painted frog *Discoglossus pictus pictus* was also recorded to be present at this site. The area is also important for birds.

General information

Basic information

Wetland location:	Inland
Wetland type:	Natural
Natural / Artificial:	Permanent freshwater pond
Area (Ha):	7.30
Hydrological interaction with other wetland:	Yes - MAL008
Water salinity:	Fresh (< 0.5 g/l)
Fresh water entry:	Catchment area (precipitation)
Surface water runoff:	Outflow controlled by dam
Open water area (%):	76 - 95
Hydroperiod:	Permanent

Geographic information

Census district:	Northern
Island:	Malta
Local council:	San Pawl Il-Bahar
Coordinates (WGS84):	14.408880 E - 35.922160 N

Wetland condition

Wetland condition:

3 - Original habitats/landform partially modified (10-50% untouched)

Ramsar wetland types

Ramsar type

M -- Permanent rivers/streams/creeks; includes waterfalls

Coverage (%)

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	Wied l-Imsejjet, tal-Hzejjen, ta' Ghajn Mula, ta' l-Arkata, ta' Ghajn Rihana, Gebel Sarnu, Tat-Targa u Ta' Benniena	555552415	100	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
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 purification		
Regulatory services	Water regulation		
Supporting services	Provision of habitat		

Activities on wetland

Activities	Intensity
020 = Resource conservation	High
130 = Irrigation	High
230 = Hunting	High
701 = water pollution	High
720 = Trampling overuse	High
910 = Silting up	Low
951 = drying out/accumulation of organic material	Medium
952 = eutrophication	Low
954 = invasion by a species	High

Activities on drainage basin

Activities	Intensity
100 = Cultivation	High
102 = mowing / cutting	High
110 = Use of pesticides	High
120 = Fertilisation	High
130 = Irrigation	High
180 = Burning	Low
230 = Hunting	High
419 = other industrial / commercial areas	Low
430 = Agricultural structures	High
440 = Storage of materials	Low
501 = paths tracks cycling tracks	Medium
502 = roads motorways	Low
701 = water pollution	High
790 = Other pollution/human impacts/activities	High
972 = parasitism	High

Impacts

Impact type	Intensity
EB- = Increase in aesthetic qualities	
ED- = Increase in sediment removal/retention	
EE- = Increase of economic potential	
EF- = Increase in protection from natural forces	
ER- = Increase in flow regulation	
ES- = Increase in water supply	
EW- = Increase in wilderness/wildlife values	
PF- = Fertilizer/Excess nutrient pollution	
PP- = Pesticide pollution	
WD- = Diversion of flowing water	

Habitats & Vegetation

Vegetation types

Vegetation type	Coverage (%)
Emergent	51 - 75
Floating-leaved	26 - 50
Other	51 - 75
Shrubby / Arborescent	5 - 25
Wet meadow	

Species

Flora

Species	Dominance	Reference
Acacia sp.		
Alisma plantago-aquatica		
Arundo donax		
Daucus carota subs. carota		
Erica multiflora		
Eucalyptus camaldulensis		
Foeniculum vulgare		

Galactites tomentosa		
Lemna minor		
Orobanche lavandulacea		
Osteospermum jucundum		
Ranunculus saniculifolius		
Ranunculus trichophyllus		
Tamarix africana		

Fauna

Birds	Population	Nesting status	References
Circus aeruginosus (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Pernis apivorus (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Apus apus (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Actitis hypoleucos (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Gallinago gallinago (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Gallinago gallinago (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Larus michahellis (Pallas, 1811)			
Tringa ochropus (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Ardea cinerea (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Ardea purpurea (Linnaeus, 1766)			
Nycticorax nycticorax (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Streptopelia turtur (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Merops apiaster (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Upupa epops (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Falco naumanni (Fleischer, 1818)			
Falco subbuteo (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Falco tinnunculus (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Porzana porzana (Linnaeus, 1766)			
Rallus aquaticus (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Acrocephalus arundinaceus (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Acrocephalus schoenobaenus (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Alauda arvensis (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Anthus pratensis (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Carduelis cannabina (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Cettia cetti (Temminck, 1820)			
Cisticola juncidis (Rafinesque, 1810)			
Delichon urbicum (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Erithacus rubecula (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Ficedula albicollis (Temminck, 1815)			
Ficedula hypoleuca (Pallas, 1764)			
Fringilla coelebs (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Hirundo rustica (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Motacilla alba (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Motacilla cinerea (Tunstall, 1771)			
Muscicapa striata (Pallas, 1764)			
Oenanthe oenanthe (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Passer hispaniolensis (Temminck, 1820)			
Passer montanus (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Phoenicurus ochruros (S.G. Gmelin, 1774)			
Phylloscopus collybita (Vieillot, 1817)			
Phylloscopus sibilatrix (Bechstein, 1793)			
Phylloscopus trochilus (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Prunella modularis (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Riparia riparia (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Saxicola rubetra (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Sturnus vulgaris (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Sylvia atricapilla (Linnaeus, 1758)			
Sylvia borin (Boddaert, 1783)			

Sylvia cantillans (Pallas, 1764)

Sylvia melanocephala (J.F. Gmelin, 1789)

Turdus philomelos (C.LinnaeusBrehm, 1831)

Jynx torquilla (Linnaeus, 1758)

Amphibians

Presence in wetland

References

Discoglossus pictus (Otth, 1837)

References

Representative Image & Map



