MAL026 - Il-Wied tal-Qlejgha 1

Description

Wied tal-Qlejgħa (MAL026) is located within Ir-Rabat and Il-Mosta. Another part of this valley system, coded MAL030, has been included in the MedIsWet database and is located further upstream to MAL026.

The site at MAL026 includes two main roads that cross over the wetland, these are Triq San Pawl tal-Qliegħa and Triq Buqana. The study area is similar to a rock-pool type environment. The site proper is a dammed watercourse.

The watercourse is relatively shallow. Species include Eucalyptus trees, Foeniculum vulgare, Arundo donax, Piptatherum miliaceum, Hipparhenia hirta, Ricinus communis, Dittrichia viscosa, Aster squamatus and Acacia saligna indicating the disturbed nature from an ecological point of view of this part of the watercourse; this disturbed habitat can be described throughout the remainder of the site up to Buqana. There are pockets of typical watercourse species and species of interest. In this section, species of interest include Scirpoides holoschoenus. A small maquis-type community can be noted on the banks with some typical species including Erica multiflora, Olea europaea, Asparagus aphyllus and Prunis dulcis. Close to the boreholes Eucalyptus and Acacia trees are dominant; Scirpus holoschoenus is also present. As throughout most of this watercourse Arundo donax is also dominant.

During the field visits it was noted that the water bodies were dominated by the Common Duckweed (Lemna minor L.); other typical watercourse species noted included Typha domingensis and Rumex conglomerates. Evidence of eutrophication was noted during the field visit. From an ecological point of view, this area is highly disturbed with Ricinus communis scrub and ruderals representing the dominant vegetation. Agricultural land surrounds this area.

General information

Basic information

Wetland location:	Inland
Wetland type:	Artificial
Natural / Artificial:	Dam lake
Area (Ha):	0.70
Hydrological interaction with other wetland:	Yes - MAL052/MAL030/MAL008
Water salinity:	Fresh (< 0.5 g/l)
Fresh water entry:	Torrent / Stream - Unconfined aquifer
Surface water runoff:	Outflow controlled by dam
Open water area (%):	26 - 50
Hydroperiod:	Permanent

Geographic information

Census district:	Western
Island:	Malta
Local council:	Ir-Rabat
Coordinates (WGS84):	14.407790 E - 35.903150 N

Nature Trust Malta. (2019). Inventory report: MAL026 - Il-Wied tal-Qlejgha 1. MtIsWet – Database of the Maltese Islands Wetlands.
https://www.maltawetlands.org/general/report.php?id=42&lang=en (Accessed on 29.03.2024)
Updated: 04.2020

Biological significance

Biological significance:	Medium

Ramsar wetland types

Ramsar type	Coverage (%)
6 -- Water storage areas; reservoirs/barrages/dams/impoundments (generally over 8 ha)	

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	Sistema ta' Widien tas-Salina	555552415	100	Development Planning Act (Act VII of 2016)
National	Area of High Landscape Value	Chadwick Lakes u parti mill-Imdina	555546315	100	Development Planning Act (Act VII of 2016)

CDDA protection status

CDDA code	Category
MT02	Area of Ecological Importance/Site of Scientific Importance
MT15	Area of High Landscape Value

Ecosystem Services, Activities & Impacts

Ecosystem Services

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

Activities on wetland

Activities	Intensity
020 = Resource conservation	High
502 = roads motorways	High
701 = water pollution	High
710 = Noise nuisance	Medium
852 = modifying structures of inland water courses	High
910 = Silting up	Medium

Activities on drainage basin

Activities	Intensity
101 = modification of cultivation practices	Medium
110 = Use of pesticides	Medium
120 = Fertilisation	Medium
430 = Agricultural structures	Low
502 = roads motorways	High

701 = water pollution	High
710 = Noise nuisance	High
852 = modifying structures of inland water courses	High

Impacts

Impact type	Intensity
EB- = Increase in aesthetic qualities	
EF- = Increase in protection from natural forces	
ER- = Increase in flow regulation	
ES- = Increase in water supply	
PF- = Fertilizer/Excess nutrient pollution	
PP- = Pesticide pollution	

Habitats & Vegetation

Vegetation types

Vegetation type	Coverage (%)
Emergent	
Floating-leaved	5 - 25

Species

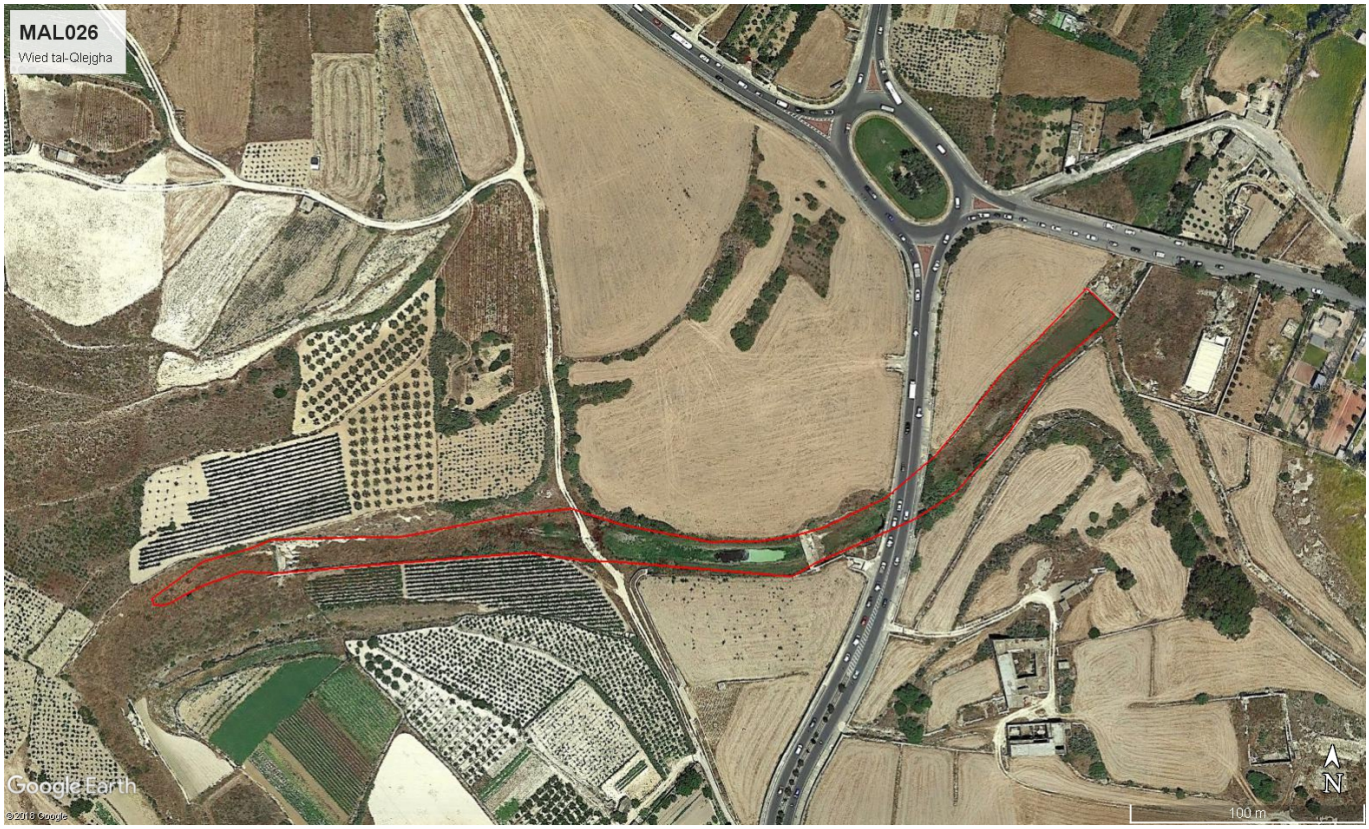
Flora

Species	Dominance	Reference
Typha domingensis		

References

Representative Image & Map




MAL026
Wied tal-Qlejgha
Google Earth
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