



MAL030 - Il-Wied tal-Qlejgha 2

Description

The site consists of a stretch of watercourse that is intercepted by dams such that the site retains water even outside of the rainy season. The site is scheduled as an Area of Ecological Importance and a Site of Scientific Importance through Government Notice 1236 of 2012. The watercourse is scheduled as a level 1 Site of Scientific Importance for the only known locality for the freshwater snail *Lymnaea peregra* and the hemipteran *Nabis ferus*. As reported in the Government Notice, this part of the watercourse also supports other freshwater snails (*Physella acuta* and *Lymnaea truncatula*) and the freshwater beetle *Gyrinus dejeani*. The site includes what can be described as a degraded wetland. The habitat consists of an area that is inundated with water, however, it is not dominated by hygrophytes, instead ruderal species are dominant. A pond area. The area is part of an ongoing restoration plan that is currently (at the time of writing, i.e. 2019) in the implementation process and therefore habitats recorded during the baseline may have changed or since been removed since fieldwork was carried out in 2018. For instance, the *Arundo donax* reed bed has been almost completely removed in a bid to allow for rare riparian habitats of conservation interest (also at European Level) to take over and colonise this area following planting and bio-engineering works. A Poplar gallery is located upstream similar to the one located behind the dam after Tas-Slampa, the aim of the restoration plan is to extend this habitat type and therefore improve the ecological value of the area. Part of the restoration works included dredging and removing silt from behind the dams to improve water storage capacity and help Malta to achieve its goals in this regard. The area behind the large dam was previously characterised by dominant hygrophytes including *Rumex crispus*, *Ranunculus muricatus*, *Apium nodiflorum*, *Ranunculus saniculifolius*, *Mentha pulegium*, *Rumex conglomeratus* and *Holoschoenus scirpoides*. A population of *Phragmites tenuifolia* was also present. The drier areas were dominated by ruderal species. During the restoration works, the hygrophyte seed bank was retained whereby the top metre of silt/soil was moved to the banks of the watercourse until restoration works are completed.

General information

Basic information

Wetland location:	Inland
Wetland type:	Artificial
Natural / Artificial:	Dam lake
Area (Ha):	1.80
Hydrological interaction with other wetland:	Yes - MAL052/MAL026/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):	14.389970 E - 35.892680 N

Biological significance

Biological significance: High

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	Chadwick Lakes u parti mill-Imdina	555552415	100	Development Planning Act (Act VII of 2016)
National	Area of High Landscape Value	Sistema ta' Widien tas-Salina	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
Cultural services	Cultural heritage		
Cultural services	Recreation and tourism		
Provisioning services	Fresh water		
Regulatory services	Water purification		
Regulatory services	Water regulation		
Supporting services	Nutrient cycling		
Supporting services	Provision of habitat		

Activities on wetland

Activities	Intensity
010 = Habitat conservation	High
030 = Species conservation	High
507 = bridge viaduct	High
701 = water pollution	High
852 = modifying structures of inland water courses	High
853 = management of water levels	High
870 = Dykes embankments artificial beaches general	High
954 = invasion by a species	High

Activities on drainage basin

Activities	Intensity
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010 = Habitat conservation	High
100 = Cultivation	High
110 = Use of pesticides	High
120 = Fertilisation	High
130 = Irrigation	High
230 = Hunting	High
403 = dispersed habitation	Low
423 = disposal of inert materials	Low
430 = Agricultural structures	Medium
501 = paths tracks cycling tracks	High
502 = roads motorways	High
507 = bridge viaduct	High
623 = motorised vehicles	Medium
690 = Other leisure and tourism impacts	High
954 = invasion by a species	High

Impacts

Impact type	Intensity
EB- = Increase in aesthetic qualities	
ED- = Increase in sediment removal/retention	
ER- = Increase in flow regulation	
ES- = Increase in water supply	
EU- = Increase of tourist/recreation potential	
EW- = Increase in wilderness/wildlife values	
FCP = Introduction of animal pests	
PF- = Fertilizer/Excess nutrient pollution	
PP- = Pesticide pollution	
SS- = Soil siltation	
VCD = Loss of floral diversity	
VCX = Introduction of exotic floral species	
VP- = Decrease in population of floral species	

Habitats & Vegetation

Habitat types

Habitat types	Coverage (%)
92A0 Salix alba and Populus alba galleries	5 - 25

Vegetation types

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

Species

Flora

Species	Dominance	Reference
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Acacia saligna		
Acanthus mollis		
Arum italicum		
Arundo donax		
Aster squamatus		
Bellardia trixago		
Borago officinalis		
Cynodon dactylon		
Diplotaxis tenuifolia		
Eucalyptus camaldulensis		
Ferula communis		
Glebionis coronaria		
Hordeum vulgare		
Lavatera arborea		
Malva cretica		
Malva sylvestris		
Mercurialis annua		
Olea europaea		
Opuntia ficus-indica		
Oxalis pes-caprae		
Phragmites australis		
Populus alba		
Prunus dulcis		
Reichardia picroides		
Ricinus communis		
Sambucus nigra		
Smyrniolum olusatrum		
Urginea panchratium		
Yucca gloriosa		

Fauna

Reptiles	Presence in wetland	References
Chalcides ocellatus tiligugu (Gmelin, 1789)		
Coluber viridiflavus (Lacepede, 1789)		

Amphibians	Presence in wetland	References
Discoglossus pictus (Otth, 1837)		

Invertebrates	Presence in wetland	References
Chrysolina grossa (Fabricius, 1792)		
Dytiscus circumflexus (Fabricius, 1801)		
Orius spp.		
Macrolophus spp.		
Trigonotylus spp.		
Notonecta maculata (Fabricius, 1794)		
Andrena nigroaenea (Kirby, 1802)		
Apis mellifera (Linnaeus, 1758)		
Bombus terrestris (Linnaeus, 1758)		
Ceratina		
Xylocopa violaceae (Linnaeus, 1758)		
Hylaeus		
Halictus fulvipes (Klug, 1817)		
Lassioglossum		
Seladonia gemmea (Dours, 1872)		
Anthidium		
Osmia latreillei (Spinola, 1806)		
Polistes gallicus (Linnaeus, 1758)		
Celastrina argiolus (Linnaeus, 1758)		

Leptotes pirithous (Linnaeus, 1767)		
Pararge aegeria (Linnaeus, 1758)		
Vanessa atalanta (Linnaeus, 1758)		
Pieris rapae (Linnaeus, 1758)		
Chrysoperla carnea (Stephens, 1836)		
Anax imperator (Leach, 1815)		
Anax parthenope (Selys, 1839)		
Ischnura genei		
Crocothemis erythraea (Morton, 1920)		
Orthetrum cancellatum (Linnaeus, 1758)		
Orthetrum coarulescens anceps (Schneider, 1845)		
Orthetrum trinacria (Selys, 1841)		
Selysiothemis nigra (Vander Linden, 1825)		
Sympetrum fonscolombii (Selys, 1840)		
Procambarus clarkii (Girard, 1852)		
Lymnaea truncatula (O. F. Müller, 1774)		
Theba pisana (O.F. Müller, 1774)		
Radix peregra (Linnaeus, 1758)		
Physella acuta (Draparnaud, 1805)		
Trochoidea spratti (L. Pfeiffer, 1846)		

References

Representative Image & Map

