



MAL097 - Il-Blata tal-Melh 2

Description

Il-Blata tal- Melh are a series of interconnected salt pans, located in the northern of Malta, within the limits of Rabat. It is unclear whether the salt pans are still actively in use. The site is predominantly surrounded by natural habitat with a handful of active agricultural land. Due to the surrounding coastal cliffs, the salt pans are classified as an Area of Ecological Importance under G.N. 400/96 and Area of High Landscape Value under G.N. No. 903/15 – GF 124/08. il-Qlejgħa Cave is also situated in close proximity to the site with a Class B Degree of Protection.

General information

Basic information

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| Wetland location: | Marine/Coastal |
| Wetland type: | Artificial |
| Natural / Artificial: | Saline |
| Area (Ha): | 1.00 |
| 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: | Western |
| Island: | Malta |
| Local council: | Ir-Rabat |
| Coordinates (WGS84): | 14.329950 E - 35.895770 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 mic-Cirkewwa sa Benghisa | 174729 | 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 | Rdumijiet ta' Malta | 330728 | 100 | Environment Protection Act (Act I of 2016) |
| International | Special Protection Areas | Rdumijiet ta' Malta: Ras il-Pellegrin sax-Xaqqa | 555552413 | 100 | Environment Protection Act (Act I of 2016) |
| International | Important Bird and Biodiversity Areas | Il-Kullana to ta' Gifen Cliffs | MT008 | 100 | |
| Other | Scheduling - Archaeology | Il-Qlejgha AAI | | 100 | |

CDDA protection status

| CDDA code | Category |
|-----------|--|
| MT01 | Area of Ecological Importance |
| MT15 | Area of High Landscape Value |
| MT11 | Special Areas of Conservation - International Importance |
| MT13 | Special Protection Areas |

Important bird areas

| IBA Code | Site name | Coverage (%) |
|----------|--------------------------------|--------------|
| MT008 | Il-Kullana to ta' Gifen Cliffs | 100 |

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 |
| 920 = Drying out | High |

Activities on drainage basin

| Activities | Intensity |
|-----------------------|-----------|
| 220 = Leisure fishing | Low |
| 220 = Leisure fishing | Medium |

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



