NATURA 2000 - STANDARD DATA FORM

For Special Protection Areas (SPA),
Proposed Sites for Community Importance (pSCI),
Sites of Community Importance (SCI) and
for Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

SITE **MT0000105**

SITENAME **Zona fil-Bahar fil-Grigal ta' Malta**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

Back to top

1.1 Type	1.2 Site code
B	MT0000105

1.3 Site name

Zona fil-Bahar fil-Grigal ta' Malta

1.4 First Compilation date	1.5 Update date
2010-08	2012-09

1.6 Respondent:

Name/Organisation:	
Address:	Ecosystems Management Unit Environment Protection Directorate Malta Environment and Planning Authority
Email:	natura2000@mepa.org.mt

Date site proposed as SCI:	2010-08
Date site confirmed as SCI:	No data
Date site designated as SAC:	No data
National legal reference of SAC designation:	No data

2. SITE LOCATION

Back to top

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

Longitude	Latitude
14.3911	36.0139

2.2 Area [ha]:

15519.4

2.3 Marine area [%]

2.4 Sitelength [km]:

0.0

2.5 Administrative region code and name

NUTS level 2 code	Region Name
MTZZ	Marine

2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Mediterranean (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

Back to top

3.1 Habitat types present on the site and assessment for them

Annex I Habitat types						Site assessment			
Code	PF	NP	Cover [ha]	Cave [number]	Data quality	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		
						Representativity	Relative Surface	Conservation	Global
1110			41.9		M	B		A	B
1120			4955.34		M	A	A	B	B
1170			45.01		M	B		B	B
8330									

- **PF:** for the habitat types that can have a non-priority as well as a priority form (6210, 7130, 9430) enter "X" in the column PF to indicate the priority form.
- **NP:** in case that a habitat type no longer exists in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Cover:** decimal values can be entered

- **Caves:** for habitat types 8310, 8330 (caves) enter the number of caves if estimated surface is not available.
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation)

3.2 Species referred to in Article 4 of Directive 2009/147/EC and listed in Annex II of Directive 92/43/EEC and site evaluation for them

Species					Population in the site						Site assessment			
G	Code	Scientific Name	S	NP	T	Size		Unit	Cat.	D.qual.	A|B|C|D	A|B|C		
						Min	Max				Pop.	Con.	Iso.	Glo.
I	2578	Gibbula nivosa			p				V	P	A	C	A	B

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, I = Invertebrates, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Type:** p = permanent, r = reproducing, c = concentration, w = wintering (for plant and non-migratory species use permanent)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the Standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting (see reference portal)
- **Abundance categories (Cat.):** C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present - to fill if data are deficient (DD) or in addition to population size information
- **Data quality:** G = 'Good' (e.g. based on surveys); M = 'Moderate' (e.g. based on partial data with some extrapolation); P = 'Poor' (e.g. rough estimation); VP = 'Very poor' (use this category only, if not even a rough estimation of the population size can be made, in this case the fields for population size can remain empty, but the field "Abundance categories" has to be filled in)

3.3 Other important species of flora and fauna (optional)

Species					Population in the site				Motivation					
Group	CODE	Scientific Name	S	NP	Size		Unit	Cat.	Species Annex		Other categories			
					Min	Max		C|R|V|P	IV	V	A	B	C	D
I		Antedon mediterranea						P						X
I		Aplysina aerophoba						P					X	
I		Astroides calycularis						P					X	
I		Centrostephanus longispinus						P					X	
I		Cladocora caespitosa						P			X			
P		Cymodocea nodosa						P					X	
		Cystoseira												

P		amentacea						P					X	
P		Cystoseira brachycarpa						P			X			
P		Cystoseira compressa						P			X			
P		Cystoseira ercegovicii						P			X			
P		Cystoseira spinosa						P					X	
I		Dendropoma petraeum						P					X	
I		Erosaria spruca						P					X	
P		Lithothamnion coralloides						P					X	
P		Lithothamnion minervae						P						X
I		Luria lurida						P					X	
I		Paracentrotus lividus						P					X	
I		Petrobiona massilliana						P					X	
P		Phymatolithon calcareum						P					X	
I		Pinna nobilis						P					X	
P		Sargassum vulgare						P			X			
I		Scyllarides latus						P					X	
I		Spantagus purpureus						P						X
I		Tonna galea						P					X	

- **Group:** A = Amphibians, B = Birds, F = Fish, Fu = Fungi, I = Invertebrates, L = Lichens, M = Mammals, P = Plants, R = Reptiles
- **CODE:** for Birds, Annex IV and V species the code as provided in the reference portal should be used in addition to the scientific name
- **S:** in case that the data on species are sensitive and therefore have to be blocked for any public access enter: yes
- **NP:** in case that a species is no longer present in the site enter: x (optional)
- **Unit:** i = individuals, p = pairs or other units according to the standard list of population units and codes in accordance with Article 12 and 17 reporting, (see reference portal)
- **Cat.:** Abundance categories: C = common, R = rare, V = very rare, P = present
- **Motivation categories: IV, V:** Annex Species (Habitats Directive), **A:** National Red List data; **B:** Endemics; **C:** International Conventions; **D:** other reasons

4. SITE DESCRIPTION

Back to top

4.1 General site character

Habitat class	% Cover
N01	100.0
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

This site is relatively large when considering Malta. Justification for this is based on the SLOSS (Single Large Or Several Small sites) debate on site design. Contrary to several small sites, a single large site has low edge effect, affords better protection to organisms with large area requirements and is easier to manage. Moreover this approach is also in line with the suggested ecological coherence (Article 3 & 10) necessary for better conserving Natura 2000 sites. The seabed geomorphology in the site is considerably heterogeneous giving rise to a number of varied seascapes, bottom types and a number of different habitat types.

4.2 Quality and importance

This area hosts the largest variety of Posidonia sub-types when considering the marine sites selected to form part of the Natura 2000 Network, with the representativity of each being considered superior. The subtypes present in this site are the following: - Posidonia settled on matte, whose meadows are normally continuous and having a high density; - Posidonia settled on rock, showing a reticulate distribution of dense strands; - Posidonia settled on sand, with continuous beds generally showing low densities and variable percentage cover; - Mosaic morphology, intermixed between Posidonia oceanica, Cymodocea nodosa and coarse sand, showing a reticulate structure; - Ecomorphosis of 'barrier reef' Posidonia meadows. The Posidonia meadows within this site are also known for a high degree of connectivity, as well as percentage coverage. From the data available through a Posidonia Baseline Survey carried out in 2002, it is evident that the Posidonia meadows in various parts of this site are very abundant and healthy. They are dense and show a high degree of shoot density, particularly in White Tower Bay, which appears to host probably the highest shoot density in the Mediterranean. The site is also known for the deepest records where Posidonia grows, namely off the south coast of Comino. However, in some areas within this site, such as at Mistra Bay and at Mellieha Bay, the beds are showing signs of regression, especially as a result of anthropogenic activities. Sandbanks, formed by associations of Cymodocea nodosa are also present within this site. The following subtypes are present: - sandbanks with associations of Cymodocea nodosa on well-sorted fine sands; - sandbanks with associations of Cymodocea nodosa on superfically muddy sands in sheltered waters; - facies with Cymodocea nodosa occurring within coarse sands and gravels with more or less mud. As part of a survey carried out in 2002, reefs have been identified within this site, occurring on hard beds and rocks. The following subtypes occur within this site: - reefs with associations of Dictyopteris polypodioides; - reefs with associations of Halopteris scoparis and Padina pavonica; - reefs with associations of Flabellia petiolata and Peyssonnellia squamaria; - reefs with associations of Cystoseira spp. Partially submerged caves are also present, mostly located along the coast of Comino. No quantitative data is available for this habitat type. Amongst the important species within this site is Lithothamnion minervae, a species which has been included in national legislation as a plant species of national interest whose conservation requires the designation of Special Areas of Conservation. Gibbula nivosa, which is considered as the only endemic marine mollusc of Malta, and is listed as having a vulnerable status and a restricted distribution within Maltese waters, is also present within this site. Gibbula nivosa has been found on Posidonia oceanica leaves and under stones. Note on section: Ecological Information - Habitats The extent of national territory covered by Annex I marine habitat types 1110 & 1170 is not known; hence the relative surface fields were left blank. Caves (8330) are present on site, but have not been mapped; hence fields in Section 3.1 were left blank.

4.3 Threats, pressures and activities with impacts on the site

The most important impacts and activities with high effect on the site

Negative Impacts			
Rank	Threats and pressures [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
L	D02.01		i
M	H01		i
M	G02.08		o
M	A08		o
M	F02.03		b

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i|o|b]
L	G04.01		i
L	E03.01		o
M	H06.01		i
M	F02.02		b
L	D02.01		i

L	E03.01		o
M	H06.01		i
L	E03		o
M	G01.01		i
L	L05		i
M	F06		b
L	G04.01		i
M	A07		o
M	F03.01		o
M	G05		b
M	F02.01		b
M	D03.01		i
L	I01		i
M	F02.02		b
M	D03.02		b

M	A08		o
M	D03.02		b
M	G02.08		o
M	F03.01		o
M	F02.01		b
M	G01.01		i
L	K01.01		o
M	A07		o
L	L05		i
M	F02.03		b
L	E03.04		i
L	J01		o
M	G05		b

Rank: H = high, M = medium, L = low
Pollution: N = Nitrogen input, P = Phosphor/Phosphate input, A = Acid input/acidification,
T = toxic inorganic chemicals, O = toxic organic chemicals, X = Mixed pollutions
i = inside, o = outside, b = both

5. SITE PROTECTION STATUS (optional)

Back to top

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]	Code	Cover [%]
MT99	100.0				

5.2 Relation of the described site with other sites:

designated at national or regional level:

Type code	Site name	Type	Cover [%]
MT99	Zona fil-bahar fil-Grigal ta' Malta	=	100.0

5.3 Site designation (optional)

The site is designated as a Special Area of Conservation of International Importance via Government Notice 851 of 2010, as declared through the provisions of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats Regulations of 2006 (Legal Notice 311 of 2006).

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

Back to top

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

Organisation:	Malta Environment and Planning Authority (MEPA)
Address:	

Email:

6.2 Management Plan(s):

An actual management plan does exist:

- [ ] Yes
- [ ] No, but in preparation
- [x] No

7. MAP OF THE SITES

Back to top

INSPIRE ID: MT0000105

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format (optional)

[ ] Yes [x] No

Reference(s) to the original map used for the digitalisation of the electronic boundaries (optional).