



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 MT0000101

SITENAME Zona fil-Bahar Bejn Rdum Majjiesa u Ras ir-Raheb

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code MT0000101	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Zona fil-Bahar Bejn Rdum Majjiesa u Ras ir-Raheb

1.4 First Compilation date 2006-08	1.5 Update date 2012-09
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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:	2006-08
Date site confirmed as SCI:	2008-03
Date site designated as SAC:	No data
National legal reference of SAC designation:	No data

2. SITE LOCATION

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude

14.3267

Latitude

35.9247

2.2 Area [ha]:

848.72

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
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2.6 Biogeographical Region(s)

Mediterranean (%)

3. ECOLOGICAL INFORMATION

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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
1110B			46.6		M	B		B	B
1120B			165.25		M	A	B	A	A
1170B			135.97		M	B		A	B
8330B			28.01		P	A		B	C

- **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.

- **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		Aplysina aerophoba						P					X	
I		Astroides calycularis						C					X	
I		Centrostephanus longispinus						C					X	
P		Cymodocea nodosa						C			X			
P		Cystoseira compressa						C			X			
P		Cystoseira ercegovicii						C			X			
P		Cystoseira ercegovicii var. lateramosa						P			X			

P		Cystoseira spinosa var. spinosa						C			X			
P		Cystoseira spinosa var. tenuior						C			X			
P		Cystoseira squarrosa						C			X			
I		Dendropoma petraeum						P					X	
I		Erosaria spurca						P					X	
I		Lithophaga lithophaga						C					X	
I		Luria lurida						P					X	
I		Maja squinado						P					X	
I		Ophidiaster ophidianus						C					X	
I		Pinna nobilis						C			X			
P		Posidonia oceanica						C			X			
P		Sargassum acinarium						C			X			
P		Sargassum vulgare						C			X			
I		Scyllarides latus						P					X	
I		Spondylus gaederopus						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

4.1 General site character

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Habitat class	% Cover
N01	100.0

Other Site Characteristics

The seabed geomorphology in the site is considerably heterogeneous giving rise to a number of varied seascapes and bottom types. Two rocky shoals extend several hundred meters seawards at the foot of Globigerina Limestone rock faces, ending in stepped drop-offs. Along the length of coast in the site, boulder aggregations can also be found, which form extensive submerged boulder fields. The site also includes plateaux, as well as gentle and steep submarine slopes, the latter at the foot of vertical cliffs.

4.2 Quality and importance

A rich and diverse biota can be found in the Rdum Majjiesa to Ras ir-Raheb marine area, complementing its geo-morphological characteristics. The site hosts representatives of the main marine habitat types occurring in the Maltese Islands, with the associated biotic assemblages including species and ecosystems of conservation importance. Meadows of the seagrass *Posidonia oceanica* dominate large areas of the seabed within the 50 metre bathymetric region. These meadows are found in different ecomorphosis, on bedrock and on sand, where some areas produce thick matte walls allowing for colonisation by an array of photophilic algae. *Posidonia oceanica* meadows support a large variety of organisms of conservation interest, such as the bivalve *Pinna nobilis*, species of economic importance, such as *Octopus vulgaris*, as well as a number of demersal fish species. The seagrass *Cymodocea nodosa* is also very abundant in the site, where its meadows are among the most extensive around the Maltese Islands. *C. nodosa* forms a major association with the biocoenosis of fine sands, but has also been recorded on Blue Clay and Globigerina bedrock covered by thin layers of silt. Phaeophytes cover a high percentage of the hard substrata in the site, with the commonest species being *Cystoseira spinosa* var. *tenuior*, particularly in the shallower depths. At depths greater than 15 meters, associations of *Dictyopteris polypodioides*, *Cystoseira squarrosa* and *Sargassum vulgare* become more dominant. Hard substrata such as drop-offs and cave walls are characterised by sciaphilic assemblages dominated by assemblages of *Flabellia petiolata*, *Halimeda tuna* and *Peyssonnelia* sp., with other rhodophytes, calcareous algae and hydroids being also abundant. The extensive sandbanks found in inlets along the coast and beyond the seagrass meadows of the site, support a diverse epifauna, mostly echinoderms and endobiotic species that leave their traces by the numerous burrows on the sand surface. The variety of marine habitats found in the site provides important feeding, breeding and nursing grounds for many fish species, including demersal and predatory types. The rocky reefs and drop-offs attract shoals of large fish, such as *Sphyraena sphyraena* and *Seriola dumerili*; as well as solitary species like the *Epinephelus marginatus* and *Dasyatis* spp. Note on section: Ecological Information - Habitats The extent of national territory covered by the respective Annex I marine habitat types is not available for all the habitat types found within the site. In such cases even estimates were difficult to give, thus some fields have been left blank. Since the Annex I habitat type 8330 (Submerged or partly submerged sea caves) occupies a length of coastline as opposed to an area, this habitat type was mapped as a line and not as a polygon. The value given under Percentage Cover was calculated as the percentage of the length of coast within the site where 8330 is present.

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]
M	F02.01		o
M	I01		b
M	G01.03		o
M	F02.03		b
M	K01.02		i
H	E03		o
L	F03.01		o
L	D03.02		i
M	H02		o
H	D03.02		o
L	H04		o

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
M	E01.02		o
H	K01.01		o
L	L05		i
M	G05.01		o
L	G02.08		o
M	H06.01		o
M	G01.02		o
L	L06		i
L	G05		i
M	G01.01		o

L	G02.08		o
L	H05		o
H	G01.01		i
M	G01.02		o
L	G05		i
L	G01.05		b
H	D03.01		i
L	A07		o
L	A08		o
M	H06.01		o
H	G01.03		i
M	G01.01		o
M	G05.01		i
L	E03		i
L	L05		i
M	F03.02		i
L	H06.01		i
M	E01.04		o
M	F02.02		o
L	L06		i
M	G05.01		o
H	E02.03		o
H	D06		i
H	K01.01		o

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)

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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 bejn Irdum Majjiesa u Ras ir-Raheb	=	100.0

5.3 Site designation (optional)

The site is designated as a Special Area of Conservation - Candidate Site of International Importance via Government Notice 112 of 2007, as declared through the provisions of the Flora, Fauna and Natural Habitats

6. SITE MANAGEMENT

6.1 Body(ies) responsible for the site management:

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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
☒	No

7. MAP OF THE SITES

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INSPIRE ID:

Map delivered as PDF in electronic format (optional)

☐ Yes ☒ No

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

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