



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 MT0000104

SITENAME Zona fil-Bahar fl-Inhawi ta' Mgarr ix-Xini (Ghawdex)

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1. SITE IDENTIFICATION

1.1 Type B	1.2 Site code MT0000104	Back to top
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1.3 Site name

Zona fil-Bahar fl-Inhawi ta' Mgarr ix-Xini (Ghawdex)

1.4 First Compilation date 2010-08	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:	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

2.1 Site-centre location [decimal degrees]:

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Longitude

14.2733

Latitude

36.0186

2.2 Area [ha]:

30.56

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			0.09		M	C		C	C
1120B			1.9		M	C	C	C	C
1170B			1.44		M	B		C	C
8330B									

- **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)

[illegible]

P		spinosa						P					X	
I		Dardanus callidus						P						X
P		Lithothamnion coralloides						P					X	
P		Ophidiaster ophidianus						P					X	
I		Paracentrotus lividus						P					X	
I		Perobiona massiliana						P					X	
I		Phallium undulatum						P						X
P		Phymatolithon calcareum						P					X	
I		Pinna nobilis						P					X	
P		Posidonia oceanica						P					X	
I		Scyllarides latus						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
Total Habitat Cover	100

Other Site Characteristics

This site hosts interesting geomorphological characteristics. Most of the shore along the sides and mouth of the inlet present at this site consists of a vertical face and drop-offs, with boulders and large cobbles lying on the bottom of the base. At the head of the inlet, the bottom consists of an accumulation of pebbles, small boulders and cobbles. In the inner and central parts, the bottom consists of soft sediment. The site presents typical examples of a range of habitats occurring in the Maltese Islands, which are in a moderately pristine state within this site, particularly those associated with sandy bottoms and steep rock faces.

4.2 Quality and importance

The Posidonia present within this site comprises small patches with average shoot densities. The shoots have an average of 5 leaves and heavy epiphytic growth. In the mouth of the inlet the Posidonia has a shoot density approximately three times as that of other patches found within this site, and an average of 6 leaves per shoot. None of the Posidonia patches appears to possess a well developed mat. The Posidonia meadows present within this site are semi-isolated since there is little continuity with meadows present in other coastal areas. The biotopes present in the inlet and beyond its mouth are typical of ones found along the southwestern coast of the Maltese Islands where the prevailing bottom type is steeply sloping rock or consists of submarine cliffs with extensive forests of photophilic algae. Small populations of important fauna can be found, including populations of *Pinna nobilis*, *Centrostephanus longispinus* and *Scyllarides latus*. The site also hosts the hermit crab and the gastropod *Phallium undulatum* at a shallower level than the normal depth at which they are generally found. A significant area of reefs is occupied by an association with *Flabellia petiolata* and *Peyssonnelia squamaria*. Other important associations include that with *Dictyopteris polypodioides*. Two fully submerged caves are present below the shore on the western side of the inlet. These caves support typical cave species, including some (for example the stony sponge *Petrobiona massilliana*) protected locally and internationally. Sand banks are also present at this site. In fact, vegetation belonging to the *Cymodoceion nodosae* is present in several places inside the inlet present at this site, where it mainly forms monospecific stands. Note on section: Ecological Information - Habitats The extent of national territory covered by Annex I marine habitat types 1110, 1170 & 8330 is not known; hence the relative surface fields were left blank. Caves (8330) are present on site, but have not been mapped; hence the % cover at this site was 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	E02.03		o
L	D03.01		i
M	F03.01		o
M	G01.01		i
M	F02.03		b
L	F06		i
L	A07		o
L	F02.01.01		b
L	A08		o
L	G05		i
L	G01.01		o
L	H02		b
L	G01.03		o
L	F02.02		b
L	E06		o
L	H01		b
L	G05.01		i
L	F02.01		b

Positive Impacts			
Rank	Activities, management [code]	Pollution (optional) [code]	inside/outside [i o b]
L	F02.03		o
L	F02.01		b
L	D03.01		i
L	G01.03		o
M	F03.01		o
L	H01		b
L	E06		o
L	G01.01		o
L	G05		i
L	F02.01.01		b
L	H02		b
L	A07		o
L	F02.02		b
L	G05.01		b
L	F06		i
L	E02.03		o
L	A08		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)

5.1 Designation types at national and regional level:

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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 fl-inhawi ta' Mgarr ix-Xini (Ghawdex)	=	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

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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
☒	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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