
15. Land tenure /ownership of:

(a) site State

(b) surrounding area State but leased for farming

16. Conservation measures taken: (national category and legal status of protected areas - including any boundary changes which have been made; management practices; whether an officially approved management plan exists and whether it has been implemented)

The area is managed by the Office of the Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment. Its boundaries since designation as Ramsar site have not been altered. Area protected from shooting under the Bird Protection Regulations Legal Notice 126/78

17. Conservation measures proposed but not yet implemented: (e.g. management plan in preparation; officially proposed as a protected area etc.)

NONE

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site

nature conservation including both scientific studies and education activities

(b) surroundings/catchment agricultural

19. Disturbances/threats, including changes in land use and major development projects:

(factors which may have a negative impact on the ecological character of the wetland)

(a) at the site

NONE

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

adjacent beach heavily frequented by tourist, especially during summer

20. Hydrological and physical values: (groundwater recharge, flood control, sediment trapping, shoreline stabilisation etc.)

Surface water largely derived from winter rains, becomes steadily more saline during hot summer months.

21. Social and cultural values: (e.g. fisheries production, forestry, religious importance, archaeological site etc.)

Important for environmental education and study of marshland fauna and flora. The area is the latest and one of the few remaining saltmarshes in the island.

22. Noteworthy fauna: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, abundant or biogeographically important species; include count data etc.)

The area supports a very diverse entomofauna, some species of which are known only from this area, eg. tettigonid grass hoppers and two species of possibly undescribed endemic wasps. The Brackish water fish Aphianus fasciatus, which is in danger in other parts of the island is found at this reserve in a healthy population. A new species of brackish water snail has also been identified and is still being studied. Noted for great number of migrant species.

23. Noteworthy flora: (e.g. unique, rare, endangered, or biogeographically important species/communities etc.)

The adjoining sand dune is one of two supporting the only European population of Sand Broomrape (Orobanche densiflora form melitensis) Tassel Weed (Ruppia drapensis) occurs only in this wetland area. This is both rare and threatened not only locally, but also on a European Scale. Rare species of arrow grass (Triglochin bulbosum) is found in sandy patches.

24. Current scientific research and facilities: (e.g. details of current projects; existence of field station etc.)

Bird ringing and bird watching are carried out.

25. Current conservation education: (e.g. visitors centre, hides, information booklet, facilities for school visits etc.)

A visitor's centre and a hide are weekly used by school children and other visitors.

26. Current recreation and tourism: (state if wetland used for recreation/tourism; indicate type & frequency/intensity)

NONE

27. Management authority: (name and address of body responsible for managing the wetland)

Department of the Environment
Office of the Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment
Beltissebh,
MALTA

28. Jurisdiction: (territorial e.g. state/region and functional e.g. Dept of Agriculture/Dept of Environment etc.)

Office of the Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment
Beltissebh
MALTA

29. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

Schembri P.J. et. al. (1987)
"Localities with Conservation values in the Maltese Islands" pp 1 - 18

30. Reasons for inclusion:(state which Ramsar criteria - as adopted by Rec.C.4.15 of the Montreux Conference - are applicable)

1 (D)
2 (C) 2(D) 3(B)

31. Map of site (please enclose the most detailed and up-to-date map available - preferably at least 1:25,000 or 1:50,000)

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