



7 MT 002

Information Sheet on Ramsar Wetlands

As approved by Rec.C.4.7 of the Conference of the Contracting Parties, Montreux, Switzerland - July 1990

NOTE: Please read the accompanying guidelines before attempting to complete this form. An example of a completed data sheet is also included.

Completed sheets should be returned to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

1. Country: MALTA 2. Date: 30.08.98 3. Ref: office use only 7MT002

4. Name and address of compiler:

Joe Sultana - Principal Environment Officer
Environment Protection Department
Floriana, Malta

5. Name of wetland: SIMAR

6. Date of Ramsar designation: 29.01.96

7. Geographical coordinates: 35°57'N 14°23'E

8. General location: (e.g. administrative region and nearest large town)

N.E. coast of the island of Malta, east of Pwales valley

9. Area: (in hectares)

5 ha

10. Wetland type: (see attached classification, also approved by Montreux Rec.C.4.7)

Coastal - (man-made wetland site re-created by machinery)

11. Altitude: (average and/or maximum & minimum)

0-6 m above sea level

12. Overview: (general summary, in two or three sentences, of the wetland's principal characteristics)

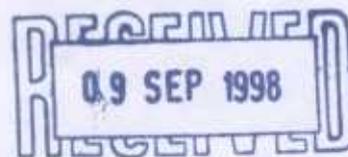
A mosaic of pools, ditches, islands and embankments dominated with Phragmites australis and groves of Tamarisk and Olive trees

13. Physical features: (e.g. geology; geomorphology; origins - natural or artificial; hydrology; soil type; water quality; water depth; water permanence; fluctuations in water level; tidal variations; catchment area; downstream area; climate)

situated in the Pwales valley bounded by two ridges. The bed of the valley is covered by alluvial sediment deposited mainly during the Pleistocene period. The water is brackish. In winter may rise up to 3 metres in some areas. Pools, ditches, islands and embankments were created by heavy machinery engineering works.

14. Ecological features: (main habitats and vegetation types)

supports a number of small habitats and other features of ecological interest - the more important being marshland, ditches, tamarisk & olive groves and individual tree species



15. Land tenure /ownership of:

(a) site

Government owned

(b) surrounding area

partly government but leased to farmers and
partly private

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)

Legally bird sancturay (shooting and trapping prohibited). Enclosed by fence and wardened - educational nature reserve. Management plan being implemented

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

no proposed measures as it is strictly protected

18. Current land use: principal human activities in:

(a) site

educational and for research

(b) surroundings/catchment

agriculture and a fish-farm hatchery..bounded on one side by a road and buildings

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

noise pollution by traffic from the nearby main road

(b) in the surroundings/catchment

hatchery/fish farm close to the boundary

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

mainly freshwater from direct precipitation, from run off from surrounding grounds, from the sea-level aquifer and salt-water from seepage from the sea through the porous substratum

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

mainly educational, but also recreational

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

several migrating bird species; and new breeding bird species (e.g. *Ixobrychus minutus*, *Gallinula chloropus*, *Acrocephalus scirpaceus*) since habitat management works have been carried out.

Erinaceus algirus, *Suncus etruscus*, *Chameleo chameleo* and *Chalcides ocellatus* are also present

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

A variety of indigenous tree species have been planted mainly on the embankment surrounding the reserve; olive and tamarisk groves; several species of halophilic, aquatic and saltmarsh vegetation, some of which are rare in the Maltese Islands

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

bird migration studies and surveys of flora and fauna

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

3 hides. A visitors' centre is being planned. Educational material is in preparation

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

when functioning properly (in the next two or three years) ca. 100 school children will visit the reserve weekly. Tourists (small groups) will be visiting once to twice weekly

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

Environment protection department in co-operation with an NGO (BirdLife Malta)

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

Environment Protection Department

29. Bibliographical references: (scientific/technical only)

'Is-Simar: Ecological Evaluation' by P.J. Schembri (University of Malta) 1986
Report on the terrestrial vegetaion -spring 1995 - University Thesis by A. Seguna (both works unpublished)

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

important for bird migration through the Maltese Islands; holds rare and endangered flora species in the Maltese Islands; unique habitat for the Maltese Islands.

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)
map was sent earlier

Please return to: T.A. Jones, Ramsar Database, IWRB, Slimbridge, Gloucester GL2 7BX, England

Telephone: 44 - (0)453 890634

Telefax: 44 - (0)453 890827

Telex: 43 71 45 WWF-G