
 MALTA RESOURCES AUTHORITY	
Groundwater Body Code	
MT001	
Groundwater Body Name	
Malta Main Mean Sea Level Groundwater Body	
Reference Year	
2004	
General Characteristics	
Location	
<p>The Malta Main Mean Sea Level Groundwater Body is sustained in the Lower Coralline Limestone aquifer and is in free contact with sea-water. This groundwater body extends over the whole southern and central parts of the Island, under the Rabat Dingli Plateau, The Mgarr Plateau, the Wardija Ridge up to the Pwales Valley as its northern boundary. In real terms the Groundwater Body can be compared to a lens-shaped body of fresh-water floating on more saline water, with a thickness of fresh-water below sea-level approximately thirty-six times its piezometric height above sea level.</p>	
Area	217km ²
Main Aquifer	Lower Coralline Limestone
Main Aquifer Type	Fractured Carbonate Media
Groundwater Horizon	1; 2 in the western regions
Maximum Length	21km
Maximum Width	13km
Mathematical centre of groundwater body	450600, 3971400
Hydro-geological characteristics	
Stratigraphy	Tertiary—Oligocene
Mean Annual Precipitation	543mm
Mean Groundwater Body Thickness	67.5m
Main Recharge Source	Precipitation
Mean Annual Recharge	34.3hm ³
Pressures	
Main Land-Use Features (Corinne Landcover 2000)	
Discontinuous urban fabric	23%
Agriculture with significant area of natural vegetation	43%
Schlerophyllous vegetation	6%
Sparsely Vegetated areas	3%
Areas overlain by perched aquifers	17%
Industrial zones	4%
Airport	2%
Mineral abstraction sites	1%
Other Pressures	
Water Abstraction Purpose	Potable Supply, Irrigation, Secondary Domestic and Industrial
Artificial Recharge	Mainly due to leakages from the potable supply and sewerage network
Contaminated Land	Old un-lined landfill sites at Maghtab, Wied Fulija and Luqa
Possible Associated Aquatic Ecosystems	Is-Salina, Il-Magħluq (Marsascala), Il-Ballut (Marsaxlokk) L-Ghadira s-Safra