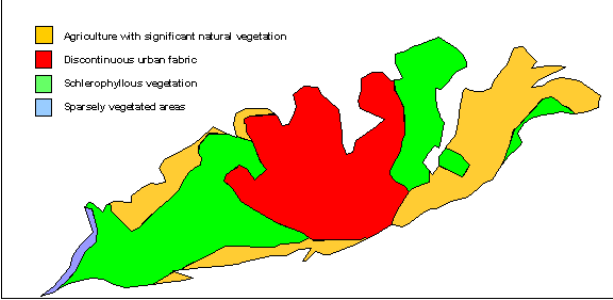
 MALTA RESOURCES AUTHORITY		
Groundwater Body Code		
MT008		
Groundwater Body Name		
Mellieha Perched Groundwater Body		
Reference Year		
2004		Corinne Landcover 2000
Hydrogeological Characteristics		
Aquifer Description		
<p>The outcropping aquifer formation in the Mellieha Ridge is the Upper Coralline Limestone. Due to its lithographic nature and its sensitivity to weathering this formation should hosts a generalized aquifer. The UCL formation varies considerably in thickness due to erosion and attains a maximum thickness of 62m in the region. The rather small thickness of this formation on the plateaus has made possible the direct exploitation of water resources by shallow wells. The outcrops of the Upper Coralline Limestone acts as a generalized recharge area for the underlying groundwater body.</p>		
Mean Aquifer Thickness	27.5m	
Soil Type and Indicative Thickness	Main soil is the Terra type. Indicative thickness is 30cm	
Mean Hydraulic Conductivity	2.93E-6m/s	
Mean Annual Groundwater Level Amplitude*	45,707 m ³	
Pressures—Quantitative Status		
Mean Annual Recharge (Natural and Artificial)	0.75hm ³	
Mean Annual Groundwater Demand	0.53hm ³	
Balance	0.22hm ³	
WSC Sources	The Madonna spring	
Registered Private Sources	7 boreholes and 8 springs	
Pressures—Qualitative Status		
Principal Diffuse sources of Pollution	Intensive Agriculture, Leaks from the sewerage network	
Principal Point sources of Pollution	Animal Husbandry Activities, Petrol Stations	
Nitrate Content in Groundwater	High—exceeding 100mg/l	
Chloride Content in Groundwater	Ranges between 250-500mg/l	
Pesticide Content in Groundwater	No data on pesticide content available; however the karstic nature of the aquifer makes it highly vulnerable to pesticide pollution.	
Other Pollutants	n/a	
Direct discharges to Groundwater	No direct discharges have been permitted	
Associated Aquatic Ecosystems— Sites under investigation		
No sites enclosing groundwater dependent eco-systems have been identified.		
Preliminary Risk Assessment		
The Groundwater body is at risk of failing to achieve the Environmental Objectives of the Regulations related to the qualitative status of groundwater. It should be noted that the groundwater body is also at risk of failing to achieve the objectives set in the Nitrates Regulations.		

* reported as the groundwater flow from the Madonna Spring for the period 1970-1992.